NATION

Himachal incurs Rs 4,000cr loss during monsoons

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BUSINESS

GST 2.0 might make food delivery costlier

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Aryna Sabalenka wins US Open 2025 twice in a row

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

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Modi to visit flood-hit Punjab on 9 Sept

CHANDIGARH, 7 SEPT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Punjab on 9 September to assess the devastating flood situation, BJP state chief Sunil Jakhar said. Modi is closely monitoring the crisis and aims to understand ground realities to provide maximum aid. Earlier, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan visited flood-hit areas in Amritsar, Gurdaspur, and Kapurthala on 4 September, inspecting crop damage and describing the situation as a 'jal pralai' (deluge). Punjab faces one of its worst floods in decades, with the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi rivers overflowing. So far, 46 people have died, and 1.75 lakh hectares of crops have been damaged.—*PTI*

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PM sits in last row at BJP's MPs workshop

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

In a notable display of camaraderie, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the BJP workshops at GMC Balayogi Auditorium in Parliament, sitting among MPs in the last row. The session endorsed extensive reforms to the Goods and Services Tax (GST), hailed as a significant overhaul of indirect tax system. The GST Council's decision, which reduced tax slabs and lowered rates on essential goods and services, aligns with Modi's promise during his Independence Day speech to provide relief to the middle class. The new structure features two main slabs, 5 and 18 per cent, with 40 per cent rate for sin goods, to boost economic growth.—*PTI*

AIMIM backs Sudershan Reddy for VP poll

HYDERABAD, 7 SEPT

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi has announced that his party will back opposition candidate B Sudershan Reddy in the vice-presidential election on 9 September. Owaisi said in a post on X that the Telangana Chief Minister's office had requested AIMIM's support for Reddy. "@TelanganaCMO spoke to me today and requested that we support Justice Sudershan Reddy as Vice President. @aimim_national will extend its support to Justice Reddy, a fellow Hyderabadi and a respected jurist," he added. The Hyderabad MP also spoke to Reddy, a former Supreme Court judge. AIMIM is represented in the Lok Sabha solely by Owaisi.—*PTI*

Congress trains guns on TRAI over voter theft

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

The Congress on Sunday claimed that the TRAI rejected its application for sending out SMSes to its Maharashtra cadre with the link of a documentary on how Maharashtra assembly elections were allegedly "stolen" on the grounds that it is "content related to protest". The opposition party also claimed that these were "telltale signs of guilt of Maharashtra election fraud" and there were coordinated moves by various arms of the government to suppress information. There was no immediate reaction from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the claims made by the Congress. —*PTI*

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'More buying will balance ₹48K cr loss after GST cut'

FM says not just rupee but most currencies fell against USD

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is confidence that a surge in consumption, driven by the GST rate overhaul, will offset the estimated Rs 48,000 crore revenue shortfall. She said the boost in consumption would ensure no impact on fiscal management and that the government will meet its fiscal deficit target of 4.4 per cent of GDP for 2025-26.

Sitharaman stated the Rs 48,000 crore figure was a static estimate and that increased income buoyancy from September 22 onwards will likely make up for the shortfall.

The GST Council last week approved a major rate restructuring. Nearly 400 products, including soaps, cars, tractors, and air conditioners, will become cheaper. The new structure, effective from the first day of Navaratri, includes three slabs: 5 per cent for essentials, 18 per cent for most other goods, and 40 per cent for sin and ultra-luxury items. Bread, milk and paneer will be tax-free. Health and life insurance premiums will also be exempt.

Sitharaman called it a "people's reform", stating, "No individual is untouched by GST. Even the poorest of the poor buy goods impacted by it." She added that many companies, including carmakers and insurance firms, have already announced price cuts, with more to follow.

The finance minister also said the strong Q1 GDP growth of 7.8 per cent, driven by agriculture and services, could result in a higher-than-projected full-year growth of 6.3–6.8 per cent.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman *PHOTO: PTI*

> **No individual is untouched by GST. Even the poorest of the poor buy goods impacted by it**
>
> —Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister

On the rupee's fall to a record low of 88.27 against the US dollar, Sitharaman said the government is keeping a "good watch on exchange rates, stressing that besides rupee several other currencies have depreciated against the US dollar." She also noted that recent US tariffs, up to 50 per cent on Indian goods—have impacted key sectors but spared pharma, energy and electronics. — *PTI*

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INFLATION WILL HIT NOMINAL GDP GROWTH: CEA

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said nominal GDP growth for FY26 may fall short of the Budget estimate of 10.1 per cent due to benign inflation, though real GDP is still expected to grow by 6.3–6.8 per cent.

Benign inflation refers to a stable and relatively low rate of price rise, which helps control living costs but may reduce the nominal value of economic output.

He attributed low inflation to a good kharif harvest and GST rate cuts on nearly 400 items. However, he noted Q1 nominal GDP growth of 8.8 per cent exceeded expectations, offering optimism.

Nageswaran expects higher disposable incomes, GST relief, and direct tax cuts to boost consumption and partially offset the shortfall. The CEA acknowledged external risks, including the US imposing steep tariffs of up to 50 per cent on Indian goods, with a 25 per cent penalty linked to Russian oil imports. He expects this to weigh on Q2 performance. — *PTI*

BLOOD MOON

The moon shines bright as people gather at Nehru Planetarium in City on Sunday to witness this year's final lunar eclipse *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

X fact-checks Navarro over anti-India post

WASHINGTON, 7 SEPT

US President Donald Trump's senior trade adviser, Peter Navarro - who has been making multiple attacks on India over its trade and foreign policies with Russia - yet again made an anti-India post on social media. However, this time, he got fact-checked by X, calling his claims "hypocritical".

In a viral post on X, Navarro wrote: "India highest tariffs costs US jobs. India buys Russian oil purely to profit. Revenues feed Russia's war machine. Ukrainians/Russians die. US taxpayers shell out more. India can't handle truth/spins."

However, the post was quickly fact-checked by X community notes. The note clarified that India's purchases are for "energy security" and do not violate international sanctions. It also pointed out that the US itself continues to import commodities such as uranium from Russia.

Navarro responded angrily, calling the note "crap" and accused X of allowing "propaganda". He has repeatedly criticised India , even calling it an "oil money laundromat for the Kremlin."

India has rejected Navarro's remarks as "inaccurate and misleading," reiterating that its energy procurement is based on national interest and market dynamics.

Meanwhile, Jason Miller, head of SHW Partners LLC, a lobbying firm hired by the Indian Embassy for USD 1.8 million annually, met with President Trump and other officials this week. While Miller did not disclose the purpose of the meeting, the timing coincides with rising tensions between New Delhi and Washington over tariffs and strategic ties with Russia. —*PTI*

Kolkata woman gangraped after her b'day party

KOLKATA, 7 SEPT

A 20-year-old woman was allegedly raped on her birthday by two of her friends in the southern part of Haridevpur, a police officer said on Sunday.

The incident occurred in Regant Park of the southern outskirts.

According to the police, the victim said that one of the accused, Chandan Mallick, took her to his friend, the second accused, Debangshu Biswas's house, claiming to celebrate her birthday.

Sources said that the three had a meal at Biswas' house, after which the woman wanted to go home. The accused stopped her, locking the door and allegedly gang-raping her.

The woman escaped the house around 10.30am on Saturday, said sources.

The victim met Mallick a few months ago, where he introduced himself as the leader of a big Durga Puja committee in Southern Kolkata. Later, through him, the victim met Biswas, where the two had allegedly promised to make her a part of their committee, said sources.

"The two accused have fled, and we are searching for them. The victim is being medically examined. We are investigating the matter. Our officers are visiting the place where the crime took place," the officer told PTI. —*Agencies*

Governor nominates 4 members to K'taka Legislative Council

BENGALURU, 7 SEPT

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has nominated four members to the Karnataka Legislative Council, according to a gazette notification issued on Sunday.

The newly nominated members are Arathi Krishna from Sringeri taluk (Chikkamagaluru), FH Jakkappanavar from Hubballi, K Shivakumar from Mysuru, and Ramesh Babu from Bengaluru.

Ramesh Babu has been nominated to serve the remainder of his predecessor's term, which ends on 21 July, 2026.

Babu, a former JD(S) MLC who later rebelled against the party's leadership and joined the Congress, currently serves as a party spokesperson. The vacancies arose following the end of terms of Congress leaders UB Venkatesh and Prakash K Rathod in October 2024, JD(S) leader KA Tippeswamy in January 2025, and the resignation of CP Yogeshwar, who quit to contest the Channapatna bypoll.

K Shivakumar, a senior journalist and PhD holder from Bangarpet, is the Mysuru Bureau Chief at The New Indian Express.

FH Jakkappanavar, a noted Dalit leader and trade unionist, has served as state president of the Congress Dalit Cell. — *PTI*

'DON'T GIVE A SH*T': VANCE ON US KILLING 11 IN VENEZUELAN BOAT

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

US Vice President JD Vance has defended the US' Trump-ordered airstrike on a Venezuelan drug-smuggling boat that killed 11 people, said sources.

According to sources, Vance responded to the online criticisms stating that " I don't give a sh*t what you call it".

The incident occurred last week when US President Donald Trump ordered the strike on a boat run by the Tren de Aragua members, allegedly killing 11 traffickers. The Tren de Aragua, which is a Venezuelan gang, has been recently declared as a foreign terrorist organisation, said sources.

Sources said that the Vice President, in a post on X, dismissed the criticism by saying, "Killing cartel members who poison our fellow citizens is the highest and best use of our military." Days after the incident, Trump announced that they had recovered drugs on the boat. —*Agencies*

Japan's PM quits after defeat in summer polls

TOKYO, 7 SEPT

Facing mounting pressure and internal rebellion, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba announced his resignation on Sunday, a day before his party was to decide on an early leadership election, which could have effectively served as a no-confidence vote.

Ishiba quit to avoid deepening divisions within the ruling LDP. He confirmed that he would initiate a formal leadership vote to choose his successor and would remain as PM until October. Despite calls to stay, Ishiba ruled out running again, expressing regret over leaving key policies unfinished — including salary hikes, agricultural reform, and bolstering national security.

The decision follows the LDP's devastating loss in July's upper house election, where it failed to secure a majority in the 248-seat chamber. The setback came after the party also lost its majority in the more powerful lower house just weeks after Ishiba took office last October. While some LDP insiders argue the losses were tied to scandals under previous leadership, pressure on Ishiba grew, particularly from party heavyweight Taro Aso. —*PTI*

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Wanted Maoist killed in gunfight in Jharkhand

CHAIBASA, 7 SEPT

A Maoist with a Rs 10 lakh bounty on his head was killed in a gunfight with security forces in West Singhbhum district, Jharkhand, on Sunday, police said.

The encounter took place in the forests of Panchlataburu hills in Rela Paral area under Goilkera police station. Kolhan DIG Anuranjan Kispotta confirmed that security forces clashed with Maoists early in the morning. IG (Operations) Michael Raj S identified the deceased as Amit Hansda, alias Aptan, a zonal committee member of CPI (Maoist). West Singhbhum SP Rakesh Ranjan said a tip-off on Saturday led a joint team of Chaibasa Police and the 209 CoBRA Battalion to conduct a search operation, which escalated into a gunfight around 5.45am. Hansda, who was wanted in 96 cases including the killing of 12 policemen, was found with a self-loading rifle and cartridges. —*PTI*

HOUTHI HAND SUSPECTED

Internet cables cut in Red Sea, India hit

DUBAI, 7 SEPT

Undersea cable damage in the Red Sea has disrupted internet access across several countries in Asia and the Middle East, including India and Pakistan, according to reports cited by the Associated Press.

Experts said the incident, reported on Sunday, caused widespread slowdowns in connectivity, though the exact cause is unclear. Concerns have been raised about potential sabotage amid ongoing tensions in Red Sea with Yemen's Houthi rebels attacking.

While the rebels claim this is to pressure Israel over its war in Gaza, they have denied targeting cables.

Global internet monitoring group NetBlocks confirmed "a series of subsea cable outages in the Red Sea has degraded internet connectivity in multiple countries," specifically affecting India and Pakistan. These were attributed to failures in SMW4 and IMEWE cable systems near Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 4 (SMW4) cable is operated by Tata Communications, the India-Middle East-Western Europe (IMEWE) cable is managed by a consortium led by Alcatel-Lucent. Both companies and Saudi Arabia have yet to comment. — *PTI*

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58-yr-old man arrested for raping minor

MANDYA, 7 SEPT

A 58-year-old man, Siddaramu, has been arrested under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for the alleged sexual assault of a 9-year-old girl in Yelaganahalli village, Maddur taluk. The incident occurred while the victim's mother was working in a sugarcane field. Police reported that the accused lured the child to his home under the pretense of playing. The girl's cries for help were heard by other children playing nearby, who alerted neighbors. The victim's mother was also informed and together with neighbors, they notified the police. The child was immediately taken to Mandya MIMS Hospital for treatment. Following a complaint lodged by the family, KM Doddi Police acted swiftly, registering a case and arresting Siddaramu. *—PTI*

PHOTO: xxxx

Teacher accuses Education Dept officials of graft

KALABURAGI, 7 SEPT

A video of a drunk teacher smoking and hurling insults at officials of the Education Department over alleged corruption and harassment for money has gone viral on social media. In the video, the teacher, identified as Gururaj Kulkarni, an employee at the Government Lower Primary School in Sheribhikanalli, Chincholi taluk, claims that all the officials were harassing him for money and were corrupt. He further stated that he had been suspended once, adding, "Suspension is a shortcut road to transfer." Kulkarni went on to threaten that he would shoot the corrupt officials if he had a gun. He also alleged that the officials themselves demand bribes in return for favours. *—Salar News*

TN man held for Mangaluru airport bomb threat call

MANGALURU, 7 SEPT

A man from Tamil Nadu has been arrested for allegedly making a bomb threat call to Mangaluru International Airport on the night of 29 August. According to a press release from Mangaluru Police Commissioner, Sudheer Kumar Reddy, an unknown individual called the airport and threatened to destroy the terminal building if it was not evacuated. Acting on the complaint, a police team launched an investigation and identified the accused as Sasikumar, 38, a resident of Vellore district, Tamil Nadu. During interrogation, Sasikumar confessed that he routinely searches for mobile numbers of airports across the country on social media and makes threatening calls. He admitted to making the threat to the Mangaluru airport. *—ANI*

6-yr-old girl dies in a school bus accident

BIDAR, 7 SEPT

A six-year-old girl died after a school bus ran over her head when she accidentally fell while getting down from the vehicle in Ekamba village of Aurad taluk in Bidar. The deceased, Kaveri, a UKG student, used to commute daily by the school bus. The incident occurred when she got down at school and accidentally fell. The bus driver, who allegedly did not notice her fall, ran over her. Kaveri was immediately rushed to the hospital, but doctors declared her brought dead. Her father blamed the driver's negligence for the accident, stating, "This incident happened because the driver recklessly drove the vehicle without checking whether my daughter had safely alighted." *—Salar News*

Kharge accuses EC of blocking 'vote theft' proof

The Cong Prez asks if EC is now BJP's back office for vote fraud

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday accused the Election Commission (EC) of having "stonewalled crucial information" which he claimed was effectively shielding those behind alleged "vote chori".

Kharge shared on X a media report which claimed that the case related to an attempt to remove electors by forging Form 7, ahead of the Karnataka Assembly election in 2023 has gone cold since the ECI is yet to share crucial data needed to nab the accused.

There was no immediate response from the EC on the charges but the poll body has in the past dismissed all such claims by Congress as baseless.

Is the EC now BJP's back-office for "vote chori", Kharge asked.

"Understand the chronology.

Mallikarjun Kharge claimed a case to remove electors in the State has stalled as ECI is yet to share data *PHOTO: PTI*

Ahead of the May 2023 State elections, Congress had exposed massive deletion of voters: in Aland Constituency. Thousands of voters were stripped of their rights through a sophisticated operation of forging Form 7 applications," he alleged.

"In February 2023, a case was filed. The probe revealed 5,994 forged applications - clear evidence of a massive attempt at voter fraud. The State government then ordered a CID probe to catch the culprits.

"But here's the twist: while EC had earlier shared part of the documents needed to trace the forgery, it has now stonewalled the crucial information!" Kharge said. Why has the ECI suddenly blocked vital evidence, he asked.

"Who is it protecting? BJP's Vote Chori department? Is the ECI bending under BJP pressure to derail the CID probe?" he said.

Individual's right to vote needs to be protected, Kharge said and added that Indian democracy needs to be protected. *—PTI*

WILL BE BUILT BY 2035

Q-City gets 6.17 acres in City's Hesaraghatta

BENGALURU, 7 SEPT

State government has sanctioned 6.17 acres of land at Hesaraghatta for establishing Q-City (Quantum City), featuring state-of-the-art laboratories, incubation facilities for start-ups, and infrastructure for academic-industry collaboration, Science and Technology Minister NS Boseraju announced on Sunday.

N S Boseraju *PHOTO: PTI*

By 2035, State aims to build a USD 20 billion quantum economy through bold initiatives in quantum computing, he said in a statement.

The land sanction fulfils the commitment made during India's first Quantum India Bengaluru Conclave. The approval was given on September 3, 2025, the minister said.

Additionally, eight acres have been sanctioned for the expansion of the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS-TIFR) to support its academic and research growth in theoretical sciences.

"Together, these developments will strengthen Karnataka's standing as a hub for advanced science and innovation," he said.

Calling the initiative "a historic milestone for Karnataka," Boseraju said, "The Quantum City at Hesaraghatta will attract global talent and investments, and will help Bengaluru emerge as a key centre on both India's and the world's quantum map."

He further noted that the Q-City would integrate academic institutions, innovation hubs, production clusters for quantum hardware, processors and accessories, and R&D clusters in collaboration with quantum HPC data centres. *—PTI*

M'rashtra opposes K'taka over raising Alamatti's height

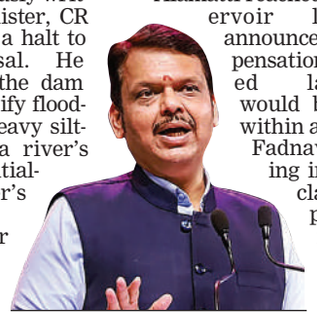
BELAGAVI, 7 SEPT

Maharashtra has strongly opposed Karnataka's proposal to raise the height of the Alamatti reservoir in Vijayapura district from 519.6m to 524 metres, citing flood risks and ecological concerns.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday warned that increasing the dam's height could trigger severe flooding in South Maharashtra, particularly Kolhapur and Sangli districts. He reiterated his appeal to the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to send an expert committee to assess the environmental and hydrological impact of the move.

Fadnavis had previously written to the Union Minister, CR Patil, in July, urging a halt to Karnataka's proposal. He argued that raising the dam would not only intensify flooding but also lead to heavy siltation in the Krishna river's catchment area, potentially altering the river's natural course.

The Krishna River flows through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. *PHOTO: PTI*



State's Water Resources Minister, DK Shivakumar, had on Saturday reaffirmed the State's commitment to increasing the dam's height. Speaking in Vijayapura after Alamatti reached its full reservoir level, he announced that compensation for affected landowners would be declared within a week.

Fadnavis, speaking in Mumbai , claimed that past floods in Kolhapur and Sangli were worsened by Karnataka retaining water in Alamatti dam instead of releasing it downstream to the Narayanpur reservoir in Yadgir district.

He emphasised that Maharashtra is not against irrigation development in Karnataka's drought-prone Kalyan Karnataka region, but insisted that it should not come at the cost of neighbouring states' safety.

The Krishna River flows through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. *—Salar News*

DyCM DK Shivakumar addresses the state-level executive meeting of the Karnataka Pradesh Youth Wing at the KPCC office in City *PHOTO: SALAR*

DyCM DKS claims BJP has 'thrown away' Pratap Simha

BENGALURU, 7 SEPT

State Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar claimed that BJP has "thrown away" Mysuru ex-MP Pratap Simha and that Simha is now desperately trying to show the world he's still politically relevant.

Speaking to reporters regarding the High Court case on banning the Banu Mushaq from inaugurating Dasara, Shivakumar said "Poor guy, he's trying hard to prove he's still alive politically. BJP has discarded him. They have no other issues left to talk about," he said.

Shivakumar further slammed the BJP for indulging only in publicity stunts while ignoring critical issues like permissions for the Mahadayi and Mekedatu projects.

Additionally on the Dharmasthala issue, Shivakumar alleged that BJP leaders and their affiliates were behind the unrest. "There are two groups there, and it's BJP people fuelling the chaos. If there's injustice at Dharmasthala, it's because of their leaders and their organisations," he said, daring the BJP to name those responsible.

Speaking about upcoming local body elections and the ballot process, he said, "Tomorrow or the day after, I'll bring a law to prove what they themselves have written. *—Salar News*

Accident

3 boys on joyride die after crashing with car, lorry

CHAMARAJANAGAR, 7 SEPT

Three boys have been killed and another sustained critical injuries when the scooter, which they were riding, collided with a lorry and a car travelling in opposite directions here, police officials said on Sunday.

The four boys were riding a scooter on the Ring Road near Galeepura in Chamarajanagar, along the national highway stretch connecting to Karivaradaraja Hill on Saturday night, they added.

The deceased have been identified as Mehran, 13, and Adnan Pasha, 9 of Galipura locality, and Rayan, 8 of KP Mohalla in Chamarajanagar.

Faizal, 11, who was also on the scooter, is battling for life with grievous injuries, police added.

The scooter was caught between the car heading towards Tamil Nadu and the lorry coming towards Chamarajanagar. The impact crushed the scooter completely, a police officer said.

While Mehran died on the spot, the others were rushed to Hospital and later succumbed to injuries.

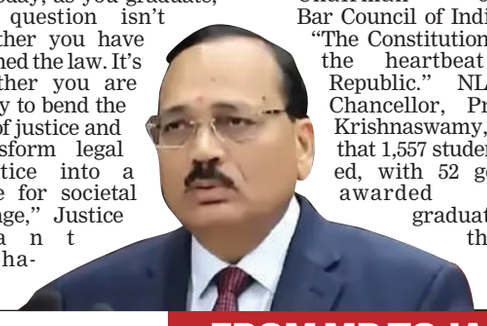
—Salar News with Agencies

Law must be a tool for transformation: Justice Kant

BENGALURU, 7 SEPT

Supreme Court Justice **Surya Kant** urged the graduating class of 2025 at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) to utilise law not merely as a profession but as "an instrument of transformation." Delivering the presidential address at the university's 33rd Annual Convocation, he challenged graduates to "reshape" the law to benefit communities most in need of justice.

"Today, as you graduate, the question isn't whether you have learned the law. It's whether you are ready to bend the arc of justice and transform legal practice into a force for societal change," Justice Kant emphasised.



He recommended that graduates surround themselves with trustworthy individuals, clarify their non-negotiables, and take time before making difficult decisions, advising, "Rushed choices in ethical matters often become lifelong regrets."

TN Ninan, former director of Business Standard, highlighted the symbiotic relationship between journalists and judges, while Manan Kumar Mishra, Chairman of the Bar Council of India, asserted, "The Constitution of India is the heartbeat of our Republic." NLSIU's Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sudhir Krishnaswamy, announced that 1,557 students graduated, with 52 gold medals awarded to 26 graduates during the event. *—PTI*

LITTLE ARTISTS SHINE

Children get creative with colours at the Makkala Jatre (Children's Fair), a fun-filled event organised by the Press Club of Bengaluru in association with Bal Bhavan in Bengaluru on Sunday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

Woman, son die in fire at Srinivasapur poultry farm

SRINIVASAPUR, 7 SEPT

A 34-year-old woman and her seven-year-old son died under mysterious circumstances in a fire at a poultry breeding farm in Arikere village, Srinivasapur taluk, during the early hours of Saturday.

The deceased Rashmipriya, 34, and her son Deepak, 7. Initial reports suggest the woman may have died by self-immolation, with the child caught in the blaze. However, police are exploring all possible angles, including a suspected short circuit, family dispute, and potential suicide.

According to Police Inspector Goravinakolla, Rashmipriya and her husband Deepak had been working at the poultry farm for nearly two years. At the time of the incident, Deepak had gone out with other labourers to attend loading work at another farm near Chintamani.

Farm owner Indrabhavan Rajanna said the couple had earlier worked at his farm eight years ago before returning to their native Odisha, and came back two years ago. He described them as honest workers who appeared to live cordially. Rajanna added that Deepak had a long phone call with his wife on Friday night, but the content remains unknown. Part of the roof was damaged. *—Salar News*

FROM MP TO JAIL WORKER

Prajwal serves as library clerk in jail, gets daily pay of Rs 522

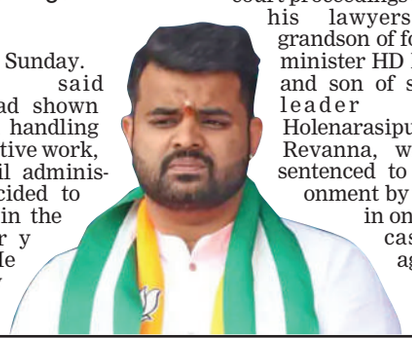
BENGALURU, 7 SEPT

Former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, who is serving a life term in a rape case, has been allotted work as a library clerk in Parappana Agrahara prison.

According to prison authorities, his responsibilities include issuing books to fellow inmates and maintaining records of borrowings.

"He is entitled to Rs 522 for each day of work, provided he completes the prescribed duties. In line with prison rules, life convicts are required to perform some form of labour, and assignments are made depending on their skills and willingness," a jail official told PTI on Sunday.

- According to prison authorities, his responsibilities include issuing books to fellow inmates and maintaining records of borrowings.



Sources said Prajwal had shown interest in handling administrative work, but the jail administration decided to place him in the library instead. He has already completed one day of work in this role. Inmates are normally expected to work at least 12 days a month, spread over three days a week. However, Prajwal's schedule is currently limited as he spends time attending court proceedings and meeting his lawyers. Prajwal, grandson of former prime minister HD Deve Gowda and son of senior JD(S) leader and Holenarasipura MLA HD Revanna, was recently sentenced to life imprisonment by a trial court in one of the rape cases filed against him. *—PTI*

HAL flays reports of defect in ALH helicopter

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has issued a firm clarification following media reports claiming a defect in the Tail Drive Shaft (TDS) of its Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv, labelling the coverage as "one-sided" and "misleading."

In a statement released on Sunday, HAL criticised a newspaper article published on September 6, which it said misrepresented the Indian Army's directive for a one-time check (OTC) on ALH helicopters.

"OTC is a routine maintenance practice issued following the detection of a defect—in this case, the Tail Drive Shaft," HAL said, emphasising that the company is working closely with the Indian Army. Expert teams have been deployed to investigate the root cause of the issue.

PHOTO: PTI

HAL reiterated the importance of strictly adhering to maintenance protocols to ensure continued airworthiness of its platforms. The company highlighted that the ALH Dhruv fleet has logged over 4.5 lakh flying hours and has served with the Indian Armed Forces, Coast Guard, and civil operators for more than two decades. The helicopters have operated in diverse and extreme environments, from the Himalayas to coastal regions. HAL noted that ALHs were recently used in high-risk flood rescue and casualty evacuation operations. *—ANI*

Staff accuses Chhattisgarh minister of assault

RAIPUR, 7 SEPT

A contractual employee at a government guest house in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district has accused Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap of assault and verbal abuse, claims the BJP leader has denied. Khitendra Pandey, a 36-year-old daily wage cook at the Circuit House in Jagdalpur, lodged a complaint with Kotwali police on Saturday night, seeking an FIR. Bastar SP Shalabh Sinha confirmed the matter is under investigation. Pandey alleged the minister grabbed his collar and assaulted him after claiming he had not unlocked guest rooms, though he said the rooms were already open. He also mentioned suffering from paralysis. Kashyap called the allegations "baseless and politically motivated," while Congress leaders demanded his resignation. *—PTI*

M'rashtra govt to give its resolutions a makeover

MUMBAI, 7 SEPT

The Maharashtra government plans to revamp its resolutions and orders with a corporate-style format, incorporating bullet points, flowcharts, graphs, and colour layouts. Officials said the move is part of broader administrative reforms aimed at making government resolutions (GRs) more accessible. "GRs are legal documents, but citizens frequently access them. The current format is dense and overly legalistic, making comprehension difficult," a senior official told PTI. Recent GRs have experimented with diagrams and points, and formalising such formats is under serious consideration. The initiative aligns with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' push for efficient, people-friendly governance. Officials said that visually appealing GRs would prevent misinterpretations*—PTI*

3 Syrians who raised money for Gaza victims held

AHMEDABAD, 7 SEPT

Gujarat Police have arrested three Syrian nationals who allegedly collected donations from mosques under the false claim of aiding Gaza war victims and spent the money on luxury items. The four-member gang had entered India on tourist visas, violating visa rules. One member, Ali Meghat Al-Azhar, was detained on 22 August, and his interrogation led to the arrests of Zakaria Haitham Al-Zaher, 34, Ahmed Ohad Alhabash, 27, and Yusuf Khalid Al-Zaher, 27, all relatives. The trio was caught at Delhi Airport while attempting to fly to Dubai, intending to eventually reach Syria. Police recovered USD 2,985. The Ahmedabad crime branch is blacklisting and deporting the accused for visa violations. *—PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Stalin concludes investment driven Europe tour

CHENNAI, 7 SEPT

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin is returning from Europe after securing investment commitments worth over Rs 15,000 crore and receiving a warm welcome from the Tamil communities in Germany and the United Kingdom. Concluding his week-long trip to attract investments, Stalin expressed gratitude to the diaspora, saying they treated him like a brother and showered him with boundless affection. "I am returning home with countless memories," he posted on social media, recalling the warmth he experienced from Germany to the UK. During the visit, investments totalling Rs 15,516 crore were secured, expected to create 17,613 new jobs. The DMK government has attracted Rs 10.62 lakh crore in investments and signed 922 MoUs. *—PTI*

TRAI junked plea on SMS on M'rashtra poll fraud: Cong

TRAI rejected it, calling it "content related to protest"

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

The Opposition claimed that there were telltale signs of fraud in the last Assembly elections in Maharashtra *PHOTO: FREEPIK*

The Congress on Sunday claimed that the TRAI rejected its application for sending out SMSes to its Maharashtra cadre with the link of a documentary on how Maharashtra Assembly elections were allegedly "stolen" on the grounds that it is "content related to protest".

The Opposition party also claimed that these were "telltale signs of guilt of Maharashtra election fraud" and there were coordinated moves by various arms of the government to suppress information.There was no immediate reaction from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

TRAI rejected permission to send SMSes, saying it is 'protest content', said chariman of Congress' data analytical department, Praveen Chakraborty

He also shared the screenshot of the message sent to it by authorities, rejecting its application on the grounds that it was "content related to protest".

Tagging Chakravarty's post, Congress' whip in the Lok Sabha, **Manickam Tagore**, said "..... Who controls this censorship chain? Sh Amit Shah, Sh Ashwini Vaishnav, Sh Gnaneshwar (Kumar)."

"Home Ministry surveillance. Railways/Telecom Ministry blocks communication. Election Commission silent spectator. One coordinated machine to hide the truth of Maharashtra 2024 fraud. Amit bhai, if Maharashtra elections weren't stolen, why are you so scared of a YouTube link?" **Tagore** said on X.

"Ashwini ji, since when did TRAI become the BJP's IT Cell? Suppressing SMS won't suppress truth. Blocking Congress workers won't block democracy. The more you censor, the louder people will ask: What exactly are you hiding about the Maharashtra 2024 elections?" the Congress MP said.

- The Congress has augmented its campaign to call out the alleged discrepancies in the past Assembly elections and the Special Intensive Revision exercise in Bihar.

The Congress has augmented its campaign to call out the alleged discrepancies in the previously held Assembly elections and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in Bihar. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a newsletter, standing firm on his revelations of alleged "vote theft" against the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Centre. *—PTI*

TARIFF TERROR

Kejriwal dares Modi to impose 75% tariff on US imports

RAJKOT, 7 SEPT

Aam Aadmi Party's convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "show some courage" and impose 75 per cent tariff on imports from the US in response to its 50 per cent tariff on Indian exports.

Kejriwal claimed the Centre's decision to exempt 11 per cent duty on cotton imports from the US till 31 December 31 would hurt the Indian cotton farmers.

He also demanded fixing minimum support price and procurement of cotton at Rs 2,100 per 20 kg, as well as subsidy on fertilizers and seeds for farmers.

The former Delhi chief minister claimed the US tariffs also affected diamond workers.

The Centre had said the extension of the import duty exemption would strengthen India's position in export markets, reviving orders for small and medium enterprises.

India is the world's biggest market and people here stand behind Modi, the AAP leader pointed out.

Kejriwal was in Gujarat to attend 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' at Chotila in Surendranagar district, which was adjourned due to heavy rains.

The Indian farmers will get less than Rs 900 when they take it to the market in October-November. They would be unable to repay the loans they had taken to procure seeds, he said.

The central government first removed this duty for 40 days - from 19 August to 30 September.

The other countries on which Trump imposed tariffs responded strongly, he said.

Referring to the issue, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge claimed that Trump and Modi could be friends, but alleged the latter has become "an enemy of the nation". Kharge said that India should continue to follow a foreign policy of neutrality and non-alignment. *—PTI*

India, Israel to sign bilateral investment treaty next week

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

Bezalel Smotrich *PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA*

India and Israel are likely to sign a bilateral investment treaty during the upcoming visit of Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich this week, while laying the groundwork for a free trade agreement (FTA) to boost trade between the two countries.

Smotrich will be on a three-day visit to India between 8 and 10 September, during which he will meet Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar.

Besides, the Israeli Finance Minister will also visit Mumbai and the GIFT City in Gandhinagar.

Both countries have been negotiating a draft bilateral investment treaty (BIT) and have concluded the negotiations. The BIT between the two countries assures appropriate protection to Israeli and Indian investors, in light of relevant international precedents and practices.

It is likely to boost the confidence of investors by assuring a minimum standard of treatment and non-discrimination, while providing for an independent forum for dispute settlement through arbitration.

Bilateral trade between the two countries is close to USD 4 billion annually.

Cumulative ODI from India to Israel during the period April 2000 to April 2025 was USD 443 million, and Israel's direct FDI into India during the period April 2000 - March 2025 was USD 334.2 million.

Israel excels in high-tech innovation, while India offers unmatched scale and market potential.

India and Israel also hold strong potential for collaboration in the fintech sector, driven by complementary strengths - India's large-scale digital infrastructure and financial inclusion platforms like UPI, and Israel's global leadership in cybersecurity, blockchain, and payment technologies.

This cooperation will promote secure, inclusive, and scalable fintech ecosystems in both countries. *—PTI*

AWAITING JUSTICE

Manipur Guv meets BJP MLAs ahead of PM's visit

IMPHAL, 7 SEPT

Ajay Kumar Bhalla *PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA*

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla convened a meeting on Sunday with senior bureaucrats and BJP MLAs, including former Chief Minister N Biren Singh, at Raj Bhavan. The meeting comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's anticipated visit to Manipur on 13 September – his first since ethnic violence erupted in May 2023.

Chief Secretary Puneet Kumar Goel, Security Advisor Kuldiep Singh, and Director General of Police Rajiv Singh were in attendance, discussing the logistics of the PM's visit, with no official agenda disclosed.

Meanwhile, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh condemned the PM's upcoming trip as an "insult" to the residents of Manipur, stating, "What does he hope to accomplish by such a rushed trip?" He characterised the visit as a "non-visit," with Modi expected to be in the state for a mere three hours. Ramesh asserted: "This is actually an insult to the people of the state who have waited for him for 29 long and agonising months," further questioning the Prime Minister's empathy towards the ongoing crisis, in which over 260 people have died. *—PTI*

Teacher recruitment exam held for 1st time post SC verdict

KOLKATA, 7 SEPT

The West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) conducted its School Level Selection Test (SLST) for assistant teacher positions for classes 9 and 10 on Sunday, marking the first teacher recruitment exam since the Supreme Court's April ruling, which annulled over 26,000 government school jobs. The exam took place at 636 centres across the state with around 3.19 lakh candidates, including many from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

A comprehensive three-tier security system was implemented, featuring stringent checks at the centre entrances. Candidates were instructed to arrive two hours prior to the exam start. Only permitted items were allowed inside the venues, including uniquely identified question papers to prevent cheating. *—PTI*

VP's office has perks, no regular salary

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

NDA candidate CP Radhakrishnan and Opposition nominee P Sudershan Reddy are in the fray for the Vice Presidential polls *PHOTO: PTI*

The Vice President of India, the second-highest Constitutional office in the country, is perhaps the only post that does not enjoy the benefits of a regular salary.

The vice president draws his salary for his role as the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Parliament.

NDA candidate CP Radhakrishnan and Opposition nominee P Sudershan Reddy are in the fray for the 9 September vice presidential elections necessitated due to the surprise resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar.

The salary and allowances of the vice president are determined under the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953.

The vice president is entitled to draw the salary of the President of India when he assumes the responsibility in a caretaker role.

The Rajya Sabha chairman is entitled to a salary of Rs 4 lakh per month.

The vice president enjoys several perks and allowances such as free accommodation, medical care, train and air travel, a landline connection, mobile phone service, personal security and staff.

A former vice-president is entitled to a pension of nearly Rs 2 lakh per month, a Type-8 bungalow, one personal secretary, one additional personal secretary, one personal assistant, one physician, one nursing officer and four personal attendants.

In the case of a former vice-president's death, his or her spouse is entitled to a smaller Type-7 house for her lifetime.

After the sudden resignation, Jagdeep Dhankhar recently applied for a pension as an ex-legislator of Rajasthan.

Dhankhar, now 74, is entitled to a Rs 42,000 pension per month as a former legislator, an official had said. *—PTI*

Oppn MPs to partake in mock poll

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

The opposition Members of Parliament (MPs) will receive a briefing on the voting procedure for the vice-presidential polls scheduled for 9 September, coupled with a dinner hosted by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday evening, sources from the INDIA bloc revealed. A 'mock poll' will take place at 2.30pm in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan following the briefing.

The election features a direct contest between the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) nominee, CP Radhakrishnan, and the opposition's joint candidate, B Sudershan Reddy. Both candidates hail from southern India—Radhakrishnan from Tamil Nadu and Reddy from Telangana.

Rajya Sabha Secretary General PC Mody confirmed that polling will occur in Room No. F-101, Vasudha, Parliament House, from 10am to 5pm on 9 September, The results are expected to be announced by 6pm. The electoral college comprises 233 elected Rajya Sabha members, 12 nominated members, and 543 Lok Sabha members, totalling 788 members. *—PTI*

DREAMING OF A HOME

J&K villages plead for safer future away from floods, shelling

PALLANWALA, 7 SEPT

A man sifts through remains of a damaged house in the aftermath of the recent flash floods, at Kheri village, in Jammu district *PHOTO: PTI*

Jammu's border villages, which have long been terrorised by cross-border shelling, are braving an even more serious threat today as flash floods caused by unprecedented monsoon rains have left their homes broken, farmlands ruined and their futures uncertain.

The villagers in Pallanwala sector and RS Pura live a life of fear and loss, pleading for relocation, relief and a future where their children can grow up safely.

In Pallanwala sector along the Line of Control (LoC), flash floods caused by the swollen Chenab submerged villages up to the first floor of houses, washed away roads and livestock, and displaced over 3,000 to 4,000 people.

"I have not seen such devastation in my lifetime. Thank God we are alive," said Santok Singh of Gigrial, whose family was evacuated by soldiers.

The people of this area have lived through the terror of mortar shelling and relentless machine gun fire from across the border in 1999, 2001, 2009, 2011, 2016, 2019, and most recently in 2023. They were forced to flee their homes and take shelter in camps at Devigarh and Paranwala schools for periods ranging from one month to six months.

.Tehsildar Khour Ranjeet Singh said that over 300 homes have been damaged and 20 villages were affected in floods. He informed that three to four shelter camps in schools and other places have been set up for providing food.

"The situation of living here is like being caught between the devil and the deep sea. On one side we face Pakistani aggression, on the other, the Chenab devastates our homes," said villager Surender Kumar.

"For years, we have been demanding relocation of our villages to safer places, but successive governments have turned a blind eye to our plight and the trauma we face every year," said Yudhvir, who lost his kin in Pakistani shelling in 1999.

A teacher, Bhishan Chand said, "We should get plots of 5 to 10 marlas of land at safer places where this village can be relocated and rehabilitated."

He further urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to address the age-old demand for rehabilitation so future generations do not suffer.Villages remain cut off from the district as roads have been washed away, forcing people to cross flood channels and use boats to reach their homes.

"There is no water and power supply to the areas as efforts are being made by the administration to restore them due to huge infrastructure damage," a villager Garima Devi said.

In Nandwal village of R S Pura, where prized Basmati rice grows, farmers said the August deluge turned fertile fields into wasteland. "We had Basmati all around here. Now, this has turned into a desert," said 65-year-old Naresh Kumar, recalling that the devastation was worse than the 2010 and 2014 floods.Another villager Sudhakar Singh said the widespread damage to the agricultural sector has left them with nothing and requested the administration's help. The residents want stronger embankments. *—PTI*

PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

Minor raped by married man gives birth in UP

BAREILLY, 7 SEPT

An 11-year-old girl, repeatedly raped and blackmailed by a married man, gave birth to a premature baby that died shortly after delivery, police said. The child was born seven months into the pregnancy. Police have filed an FIR against 31-year-old Rashid, a father of two, accused of luring the girl to his home with fruit, sexually assaulting her and threatening to kill her family if she spoke out. He also allegedly filmed her to force repeated sexual encounters. Rashid was arrested on Saturday and a DNA sample from the infant was collected for testing. The pregnancy was discovered during a hospital visit. She delivered the baby the same day. *—PTI*

Mumbai hospital receives hoax bomb threat

MUMBAI, 7 SEPT

Nair Hospital in Mumbai Central received a bomb threat by email late on Saturday, but it turned out to be a hoax. Police said the message, sent to the hospital dean's inbox at about 11pm, and prompted an immediate alert. The Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad carried out a full search but found no suspicious objects. A case has been registered and a manhunt launched for the sender. The scare followed Friday's false call claiming 34 "human bombs" carrying 400kg of RDX had been planted in vehicles across Mumbai during Ganesh idol immersions. Security had been tightened across Maharashtra. Recent months have seen similar hoax threats at Kalwa station, the ISKCON temple and the city's airport. *—AGENCIES*

PHOTO: PIXABAY

Parents sell infant for Rs 50,000 in Jharkhand

MEDININAGAR, 7 SEPT

A month-old baby boy allegedly sold by his parents for Rs 50,000 because of poverty has been rescued by Jharkhand Police. The intervention followed Chief Minister Hemant Soren's order for immediate action. The couples from Lotwa village in Palamu, living with four other children under a dilapidated shed, had no ration or Aadhaar cards and were excluded from welfare schemes. Father Ramchandra Ram, a jobless labourer, said he handed the baby to a tout couple from a neighbouring village to pay for food and treatment for his ailing wife Pinki Devi, who gave birth under the shed. *—PTI*

Jharkhand man's body kept in cow dung for revival

LATEHAR, 7 SEPT

Police had to coax and persuade relatives of a cattle breeder, who had died of lightning strike, to hand over the body for post-mortem, which was kept in the mound of cow dung out of superstition, hoping that he would come alive in Jharkhand's Latehar district. Ramnath Yadav, 45, in Rampur village in Latehar, had gone with his wife, Shobha Devi, for cattle grazing on 6 September when lightning struck him and he collapsed at the spot. Relatives had rushed Yadav to a hospital in Mahuadand, where doctors declared him dead. Relatives brought back the body and kept it in cow dung believing he would be revived. Doctors and officials persuaded them to hand over the body. for autopsy. *—PTI*

Himachal incurs Rs 4,000cr loss during monsoons

366 dead, 41 missing as floods & landslides ravage state

SHIMLA, 7 SEPT

Houses damaged in a recent landslide triggered by rains in Kullu in Himachal Pradesh *PHOTO: PTI*

Himachal Pradesh has suffered losses to the tune of Rs 4,079 crore following cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains from 20 June till 7 September.

366 people have died in the state, of which 203 died in rain-related incidents, 17 in cloudbursts and nine in flash floods, while 41 are still missing. Accidents claimed 163 deaths.

6,025 houses and 455 shops/factories were damaged.

869 roads, including three national highways are blocked for traffic and 1,572 power transformers and 389 water supply schemes were disrupted.

The Shimla-Theog road in Shimla is closed near Chaila since 6 September due to continuous landslides, with number of vehicles stranded.

The Chamba district administration appealed to the public to inform and share details on district helpline number -98166-98166 in case their family members are still missing.

17 pilgrims died since the Manimahesh yatra started on 15 August 15.

A yellow alert was sounded in isolated places in the state.

Meanwhile, all educational institutions in Punjab will reopen from 9 September 9, Education Minister Harjot Bains said.

If any school or college is affected by floods, the decision on its closure will be taken by the respective deputy commissioner.

The Punjab government had earlier ordered the closure of all schools, colleges and universities till September 7 in the wake of the state's worst flood in decades.

Mooreover, heavy downpour hampered the efforts of the National Highway Authority of India to restore traffic on the landslide-hit Jammu-Srinagar national highway which remained closed for the sixth consecutive day on Sunday.

The prolonged closure had left hundreds of vehicles, mostly trucks carrying horticulture produce and essential commodities, stranded on both sides.

Thundershowers were forecast at many places across the state. The pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi remained suspended. *—PTI*

RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS HURT

Hazratbal row: J&K police detain over 25 people

SRINAGAR, 7 AUG

- A huge controversy erupted in Kashmir after a plaque with the Ashoka emblem was vandalised in the Hazratbal shrine on 6 September.

More than two dozen persons have been detained for questioning in connection with the vandalisation of the Ashoka emblem in the Hazratbal shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar.

The police detained over 25 people after checking the videos and CCTV footage of the incident of vandalisation that took place after Friday congregational prayers.

A huge controversy erupted in Kashmir after a plaque with the Ashoka emblem was vandalised in the Hazratbal shrine on 6 September as political parties accused Waqf Board chief Darakshan Andrabi of hurting religious sentiments by using the national emblem and demanded registration of a criminal case and her immediate removal.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has said the Waqf Board should apologise for the "mistake," asserting that the national emblem is meant for government functions, not religious institutions.

While opposition parties called the Ashoka emblem's use in the mosque as "provocative" and blasphemous, the BJP calimed the incident was an attempt to revive terrorism and separatism in the Valley.

The plaque was placed inside the shrine, which houses a relic of Prophet Muhammad on 5 September, sparking outrage among devotees.

The controversy escalated when Andrabi, a BJP appointee, called for legal action, including booking the "hooligans" under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), for vandalising the emblem.

Abdullah condemned Andrabi's response, saying the board "played with the sentiments of the people" and is now using threats. *—PTI*

5 minor students of Odisha madrasa kill boy

BHUBANESWAR, 7 SEPT

Five minor students of a madrasa in Odisha's Nayagarh district were arrested by police for allegedly killing a 12-year-old boy of the institution and dumping his body into a septic tank.

The incident occurred on 2 September at a madrasa located in Nayagarh. The police registered a case and the five accused minor boys in the age group of 12 to 15 years were taken into custody on Saturday, Nayagarh, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Subhas Chandra Panda said.

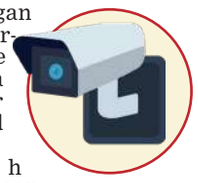
The preliminary investigation revealed that the victim, hailing from Badamba in Cuttack district, had allegedly threatened seniors of exposing their act of sexual abuse of junior students. A senior inmate had been sexually abusing him for the last six months, while also attempting to kill him.

The victim was sodomised by two senior boys and then strangled to death by the prime accused and his four associates.

Four boys were booked for murder, one for muder and sexual assault and another under POCSO Act. They were shifted to a juvenile facility at Angul. *—PTI*

CCTV footage reveals custodial torture in Kerala

THRISSUR, 7 SEPT



Disturbing CCTV footage has surfaced depicting an alleged assault by a Peechi police officer on restaurant employees in May 2023.

KP Ouseph, managing director of Laly's Group, claimed his staff were assaulted during an altercation that began with a verbal dispute involving a diner named Dhineesh.

Ouseph stated, "Soon, my hotel managera nd driver were called to the police station, where Sub Inspector PM Ratheesh assaulted them." He further alleged pressure for a settlement, stating he paid Dhineesh Rs five lakh, with some reportedly to benefit the police.

Despite filing complaints, Ouseph noted, "No action was taken against the accused officers." Currently, an internal inquiry is ongoing. Ouseph insisted, "Such a police officer should not continue in service. We want such officials to be dismissed." *—PTI*

People on boats take part in procession of Lalbaugcha Raja idols before immersion at Girgaum Chowpatty in Mumbai on Saturday as the Ganesh Chaturthi festival concludes *PHOTO: PTI*

4 drown, 13 missing in M'rashtra Ganesha idol immersion

MUMBAI, 7 SEPT

Four persons drowned and 13 were missing after the immersion of idols following the culmination of the Ganesh festival in various districts of Maharashtra.

In Pune' Chakan area, four persons were swept away in different water bodies in three separate incidents.

Two men were swept away in the Bhama river at Waki Khurd and another at Shell Pimpalgaon. Another person slipped into a well at Birwadi in Pune rural.

Two bodies were recovered and search was on for another two.

Three more persons were swept away in a river at Gadegaon in Nanded district. One of them was rescued and search was on to locate the other two.

In Nashik, four persons met with a similar tragedy, and the body of one of them was recovered in Sinnar.

In Jalgaon, three persons got swept away in separate incidents.

Three persons got swept away during the idol immersions in Thane, while another was feared drowned in Amravati. *—PTI*

Filmmaker Sasidharan detained for harassment

KOCHI, 7 SEPT

- In a Facebook post, Sasidharan confirmed, "I have been detained as part of a lookout notice issued by the Kochi City Police. I believe the police will treat me as per law.

Malayalam filmmaker Sanal Kumar Sasidharan was detained at Mumbai airport on Sunday following a lookout notice issued by Kerala police related to a harassment complaint from an actress.

In a Facebook post, Sasidharan confirmed, "I have been detained as part of a lookout notice issued by the Kochi City Police. I believe the police and the communist party in Kerala will treat me as per the law. I am not aware of the case against me."

The Elamakkara police had registered a case against him in January for online harassment while he was in the United States.

A senior police officer stated, "We are in touch with the airport authorities. Once a confirmation is received, a police team will be immediately sent to Mumbai to take Sasidharan into custody." *—PTI*

Father kills daughter for refusing to marry man of his choice

MUZAFFARNAGAR, 7 SEPT

A 20-year-old woman was allegedly strangulated to death by her father in MUzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh after she opposed her marriage to a man against her wishes, police said on Sunday.

After the murder, the accused, Gayyur himself reached the police station on 6 September and informed the police about his crime.

Circle Officer (city) Siddharth K Misra said that police have registered a case of murder against Gayyur, 48 and arrested him on the night of the day of the incident.

The body of the deceased has been sent for post-mortem and the report was awaited. The body will be handed over to her family. Local residents claimed that the girl wanted to marry another man, but her parents were opposed to it and fixed her match with someone else instead. *—PTI*

Woman recalls son's final call in ropeway tragedy

HALOL, 7 SEPT

Jayaben Mali was inconsolable as she recounted the final phone call she received from her only son, Suresh Mali, just hours before he was killed alongside five others in a ropeway accident on Pavagadh Hill in Panchmahal district of Gujarat.

Six people died when the cable wire of a cargo ropeway snapped at Pavagadh Hill, noted for the Mahakalika Temple at its summit. "Suresh had travelled to Vadodara to procure flowers and spoke to me around 1pm," a visibly distraught Jayaben told reporters.

Superintendent of Police, Haresh Dudhat, indicated the wire snapped, prompting an investigation with the Forensic Science Laboratory. Local MLA Jaydratsinh Parmar confirmed that the entire trolley fell, killing all six, including two operators from Jammu and Kashmir. *—PTI*

1ST CASE SINCE 1971

Tiger travels 450 km to make Maharashtra sanctuary its home

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, 7 SEPT

A young male tiger has travelled 450 km from Tipeshwar in Vidarbha to make his home in Yedshi Ramling Ghat Wildlife Sanctuary, a modest jungle in Maharashtra's Dharashiv district that had not seen a big cat settling in decades.

The tiger, aged around three years, made the long journey and marked his territory in the small sanctuary area in December last year.

Yedshi Ramling, developed as a sanctuary in 1997, is home to leopards, sloth bears, jackals, wolves, monitor lizards, barking deer, hares and 100 species of birds, range forest officer Amol Munde said.

Forest staffs named the tiger as 'Ramling' after the famous temple of Lord Shiva in the vicinity.

During his journey, the big cat wandered into Adilabad in neighbouring Telangana and entered Nanded and Ahmedpur before reaching the wildlife sanctuary.

The tiger also keeps venturing into areas adjacent to the sanctuary.

The forest department had earlier attempted to rescue the tiger to fit a collar and shift him to the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve and launched a 75-day operation from January to April, but did not succeed.

The tiger vanished into the landscape, surfacing only a handful of times during the entire operation.

He has defined his area to hunt for prey, making rare appearance in the early hours. This fourth tiger to arrive in Marathwada since 1971. The tiger's presence in is an indicator of a healthy jungle.*—PTI*

28 kg plastic, nails removed from cow's stomach in HP

UNA, 7 SEPT

- The cow, which had been brought in by local resident Vipin Kumar, had not eaten or drunk water for four to five days, prompting the veterinary team to suspect the presence of foreign objects.

In a remarkable surgical intervention at the Zonal Veterinary Hospital, Barnoh, a team of veterinarians, led by Nishant Ranaut, successfully removed 28kg of plastic and 41 metal nails, among other debris, from the stomach of a pregnant cow in Una of Himachal Pradesh.

The cow, which had been brought in by local resident Vipin Kumar, had not eaten or drunk water for four to five days, prompting the veterinary team to suspect the presence of foreign objects. Following a series of tests, surgery was deemed necessary.

Ranaut stated, "So far, 53 complex surgeries, including large diaphragmatic hernia repairs, have been performed successfully at this facility."

Deputy director of the Animal Husbandry Department, Virendra Patial, commended the surgical team and urged the public to dispose of waste properly to protect both animals and the environment. *—PTI*

INDIA'S LONGEST RAIL TUNNEL

India's longest rail tunnel, stretching 14.57km between Devprayag and Janasu in Uttarakhand, has seen the light of the day. Two tunnel boring machines cut through Himalayas' most treacherous terrains and completed the project ahead of schedule. It is part of 125km Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Rail Link Project. The TBM only rested for a brief while and worked almost 24x7 to complete the 14.57km tunnel ahead of schedule. The total tunnelling work spans 30km
PHOTO: SCREENGRABS

How can we make data centres more efficient?

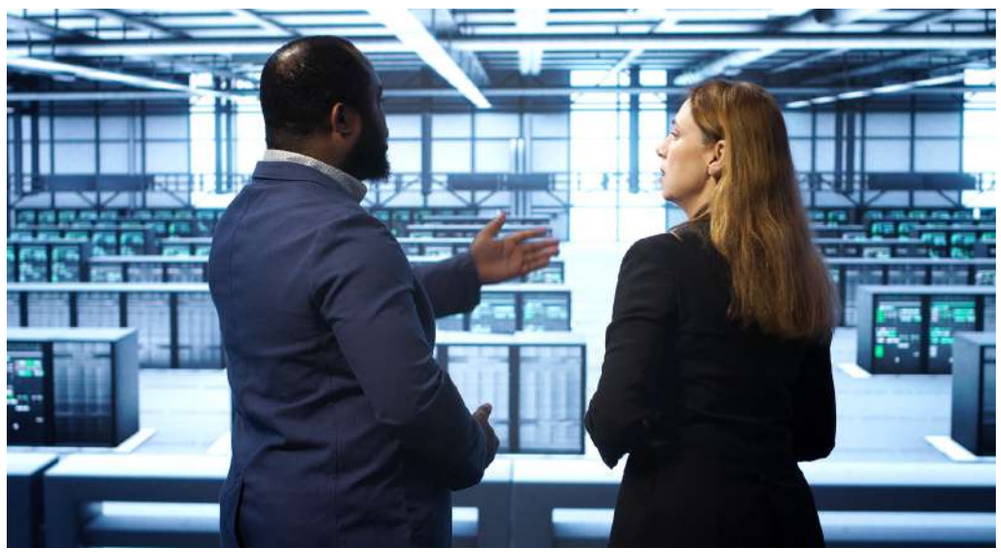
Our insatiable demand for digital content and services has been driving a rise in energy-hungry data centres.

The International Energy Agency reports global data centre electricity consumption could double in a few short years, reaching 1,000 terawatt hours (TWh) by 2026. That's roughly the same as generated by the whole of Japan per year.

Some predictions estimate 8–10 per cent of the planet's electricity production will be needed to sustain the relentless growth in data centres.

These figures are not uniformly distributed across the globe. In Ireland, where the sector is incentivised, data centres are predicted to exceed 30 per cent of the country's electricity demand within the next two years. Similar reports predict an increase in Australia from 5 per cent to 8–15 per cent of electricity by 2030.

So why do data centres need so much electricity, and is there anything we can do to make them more energy efficient?



Browsing the web, catching up on our social media feeds and binge-streaming the latest series are just some of the activities data centres support
PHOTO: FREEPIK

Why so much power?

Browsing the web, catching up on our social media feeds and binge-streaming the latest series are just some of the activities data centres support. In addition to these uses, power is also consumed at scale for artificial intelligence (AI) and cryptocurrency.

We may imagine data centres as rows of computers (servers) in racks with flashing lights, but, in terms of power usage, this is only part of the story.

When computers work hard, they tend to generate heat – lots of it. This heat is usually bad for the components within the computer or slows it down. With neither option desirable, data centres use extensive cooling systems to keep the systems running at a tolerable temperature.

Of the power consumed by an entire data centre, computers may use around 40 per cent. A similar proportion is typically dedicated to simply keeping the computers cool. This can be highly inefficient and costly.

How can we make data centres more energy efficient?

Using more renewable energy can decrease the demand on the electricity grid and the ultimate carbon footprint of a data centre. However, there are also many ways to reduce electricity usage in the first place.

Airflow: older data centres may still operate as a single large room (or multiple rooms) where the entire space is cooled. More modern designs make use of warm and cold zones, only cooling the specific equipment where heat production is a problem.

Energy recovery: rather than forcibly cooling air (or liquids) using electricity, the warm exhaust from data centres can be repurposed. This could replace or supplement water heating or central heating functions for the human-centric parts of the building, or even supply surrounding premises.

Examples have included heating homes and businesses in Finland, a swimming pool in UK, and even a trout farm in Norway.

Aquifer cooling: in locations with convenient access to underground water sources, groundwater cooling is a viable option to disperse excess heat. One example can be found in Western Australia with a CSIRO Geothermal Project helping to cool the Pawsey data centre in Perth.

Optimisation: although there are no reliable figures to quantify this type of waste, inefficiently configured software or hardware can use up some of the computing power consumed at a data centre. Optimising these can help reduce power consumption.

Ironically, an increasing number of cooling approaches involve the use of AI or machine learning to monitor the system and produce an optimal solution, requiring additional computing power.

Physical location: by planning where a data centre is located, it is possible to significantly reduce cooling requirements. In northern Europe, the local climate can provide a natural cooling solution.

Similarly, recent trials using underwater data centres have proven not only effective in terms of cooling requirements, but also with the reliability of equipment.

The future of data centres

The evolution of AI is currently having the biggest impact on data centre power consumption. Training AI platforms like ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Copilot and others is having such an impact, organisations like Google have recently increased their greenhouse gas emissions, despite global efforts to invest in carbon-neutral initiatives.

Even once trained, the use of AI-enabled applications represents significant power usage. One estimate suggests AI searches use ten times the power of a more typical Google search.

Our desire to use AI-driven products shows no sign of slowing down. It is likely the predictions for data centre energy usage in the coming years are in fact conservative.

The lights are not going out just yet, but we are close to a tipping point where the power requirements of the systems we depend on will outstrip the generation capacity. *—PTI*

SALAR

Israeli media changes perspective on Gaza war

The war in the Gaza Strip is starting to look different these days on the Israeli news.

For most of the past two years, television stations in Israel have paid little attention to suffering in Gaza, giving viewers a steady stream of stories about Israeli heroism, the agony of hostages' families and the deaths of soldiers in combat.

But that is changing. In recent months, some Israeli stations have begun to share graphic images of malnourished children and a few deeply reported stories about the difficulties of daily life for Palestinians.

This subtle shift comes as Israel faces unprecedented global outrage over the ongoing war, and it reflects deep divisions over whether the military offensive should be halted, though the growing protests and the media coverage have had little effect on Israel's policies. "It's not just truly caring about the situation in Gaza, but also from an Israeli perspective, are we acting correctly in a way that serves the aims of this war?" said Eran Amsalem, a communications professor at Israel's Hebrew University.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has largely ignored a mass movement calling for an end to the war that is focused on returning the hostages. After the 7 October, 2023, attack by Hamas and two years of regional fighting, appeals on behalf of Palestinians have even less traction.

The shock of 7 October

The first images from the war were of Hamas-led militants storming the border and marauding through Israeli army bases and farming communities. Footage out of Gaza showed people celebrating as hostages were paraded through the streets, bloodied and beaten. Around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed, and 251 taken hostage. Forty-eight remain in Gaza, around 20 of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were returned in ceasefires or other deals.

It was the worst attack ever carried out on Israel's homefront and still dominates local newscasts. In the early months, Israelis rallied around the flag after what some referred to as their 9/11, while international media quickly shifted focus to the invasion of Gaza.

"During most of the war, the Israeli media really reported very little on the suffering in Gaza or the hunger or destruction," said Raviv Drucker, a prominent Israeli news anchor. "

Israel has barred international journalists from Gaza since the start of the war, outside of visits organised by the military. The US-based Committee to Protect Journalists says it's the deadliest conflict for reporters the group has ever documented, with at least 189 Palestinian journalists killed by Israeli fire.

The perils of highlighting Gaza suffering

Some newscasters who have highlighted the humanitarian catastrophe have faced backlash. Yonit Levi, a prominent news anchor known for her cool demeanour, made an uncharacteristic comment during a report in July about international media coverage of the famine. Commentators from right-wing outlets, including Channel 14, regularly cheer the killing of Palestinians and the demolition of their homes, saying there are no innocent civilians in Gaza and that the military should act with even greater force.

The offensive has killed over 64,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not say how many were civilians or combatants. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals. Its figures are seen as reliable by UN agencies and many independent experts. Israel disputes the figures but has not provided its own.

Zvi Yehezkeli, an Arab affairs correspondent for Israel's i24 TV, welcomed the killing of five journalists in an Israeli strike on a hospital last week, accusing them — without evidence — of working with Hamas to disseminate fake news harmful to Israel. "Better late than never," he said.

The Israeli military has said none of the journalists, including Mariam Dagga, who worked for the AP and other publications, were suspected militants, and it denies targeting them.

Signs of change

Still, the coverage has slightly shifted in recent weeks, with some longer stories about Palestinians appearing in major outlets.

Israeli journalists have given more airtime to the starvation crisis fuelled in part by Israel's 2 1/2 month ban on all humanitarian aid — including food and medicine — earlier this year.

Mainstream TV news programmes now feature a few interviews with Palestinians in Gaza, though digitally altered to preserve the safety of those who speak to Israeli media despite pressure from Hamas. But those stories are still far outweighed by a focus on domestic issues.

Nir Hasson and his colleagues at Israel's left-leaning Haaretz newspaper have reported extensively on the Palestinians both before and during the war, in articles that are frequently critical of Israel's conduct. But it's an outlier in the current media landscape. "After 7 October, there's no doubt that something was broken, and it became completely illegitimate to deal with the pain of the other side," Hasson said *—PTI*

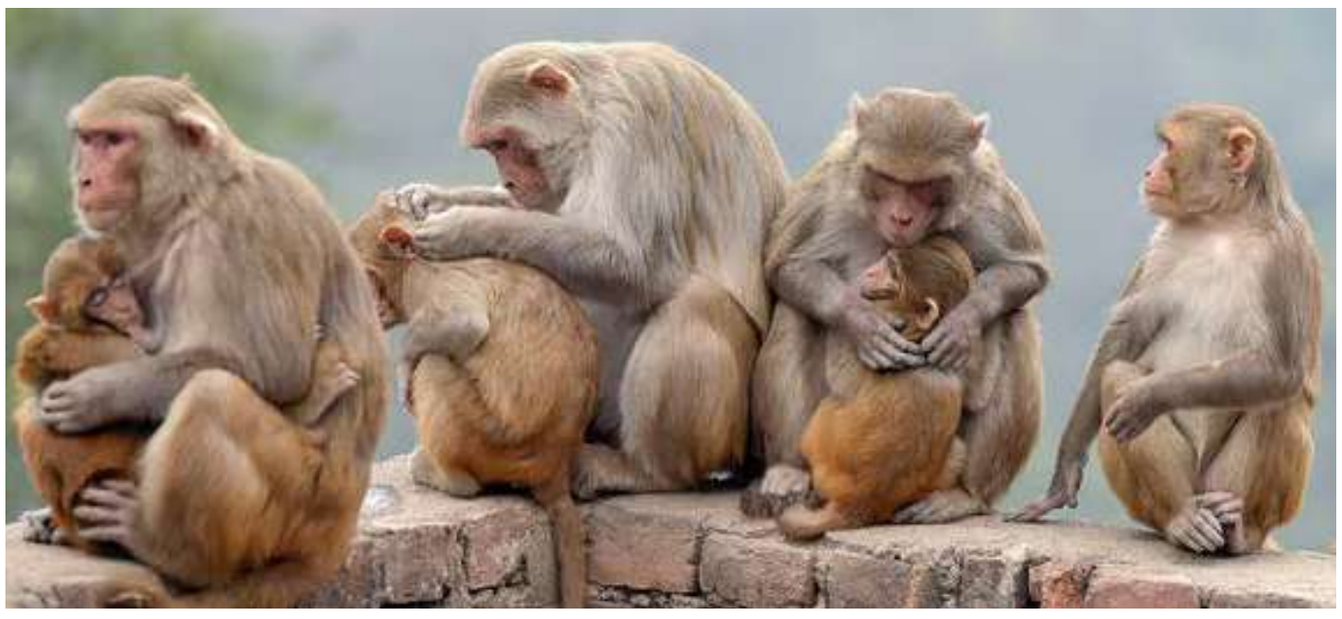
In recent months, some Israeli stations have begun to share graphic images of malnourished children and a few deeply reported stories about the difficulties of daily life for Palestinians
PHOTO: PTI

LETTERS

write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Wildlife panel cautions on extending relocation beyond tiger reserves

- At present, India's voluntary relocation policy allows families living in core or critical tiger habitats to move out willingly. Each family can either take Rs 15 lakh in cash for self-relocation or opt for government-assisted rehabilitation with land, housing and basic amenities.



The SCNBWL also discussed the inclusion of rhesus macaque under a suitable Schedule of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
PHOTO: PTI

The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) has deferred a decision on extending the policy for voluntary community relocation to wildlife corridors and reclassifying the rhesus monkey under the Wildlife Protection Act, calling for further studies and wider consultations.

The relocation proposal sought to strengthen "compactness and consolidation of habitat to improve resilience of protected areas" by extending the voluntary relocation policy, currently limited to core areas of tiger reserves, to "communities in critical biodiversity-rich areas, buffer zones and wildlife corridors".

According to the agenda note, communities living in biodiversity-rich areas or corridors often face recurring issues related to human-wildlife conflict.

These include the destruction of crops, predation on livestock and sometimes even direct threats to human safety from wild animals such as tigers, leopards and elephants.

It added that many of these families "express a strong desire to move to other areas where they can access better economic opportunities and essential public services. However, the current policy framework does not provide for their voluntary relocation, leaving them in a state of policy neglect".

During the SCNBWL meeting on 19 August, Member Secretary Ramesh Kumar Pandey told the committee that "relocation has not been completed in tiger reserves and 680 protected areas and extending this policy to the corridors would be too premature a step and would be against the philosophy of coexistence".

According to the minutes of the meeting published on Saturday, he emphasised that the focus should be on "management practices for reducing human wildlife conflict".

SCNBWL member HS Singh, who had brought the proposal, said during discussions that a demand-driven relocation could be considered.

After due discussions, the committee decided that a "study on the global best practices (from out of the country) on the relocation of communities from protected areas and works done, policy and programmes in place regarding relocation globally should be provided".

At present, India's voluntary relocation policy allows families living in core or critical tiger habitats to move out willingly. Each family can either take Rs 15 lakh in cash for self-relocation or opt for government-assisted rehabilitation with land, housing and basic amenities. The scheme aims to reduce human-tiger conflict and aid tiger conservation.

However, many tribal and indigenous communities residing in the core areas claim that the "contentious" and "delayed" implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 has left them vulnerable to forced eviction.

Under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, forest-dwelling communities are granted individual and community rights over forest land they have traditionally protected and used.

The SCNBWL also discussed the inclusion of rhesus macaque under a suitable Schedule of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Several states had earlier made representations on this issue.

The agenda note said that Himachal Pradesh, among the worst affected, had argued that the rhesus macaque is a "major source of human-wildlife conflict in Himachal Pradesh, causing crop damage, property destruction, human injuries and disruptions to tourism. Therefore, scientific management of the species is required".

It warned that the removal of the species from protection had led to the exclusion of its scientific management from the mandate of the wildlife wing, causing increased incidences of human-wildlife conflicts.

The state said this may also lead to a reduction in the number of this species in the long run due to reduced protection afforded to it after being excluded from the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

At the meeting, however, states remained divided.

The minutes show that chief wildlife wardens of Assam, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab opposed the move to place the rhesus macaque in Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, while their counterparts in West Bengal, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh supported its inclusion.

Goa and Kerala said that rhesus macaque is not native to their states.

Director General of Forests Sushil Kumar Awasthi said that since opinions were differing in a small group of CWLWs, it is essential to take the opinion of all the states and union territories.

Accordingly, the committee decided to seek reasoned statements from all states and union territories by circulating a detailed questionnaire. *—PTI*

EU Chief may face fresh no trust vote: Report

BRUSSELS, 7 SEPT

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen may face another no-confidence vote, just months after surviving one before the summer break, EuroNews reported. Two new motions of censure are being prepared by the Left group and the far-right Patriots for Europe. Each motion requires at least 72 signatures from Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to proceed. Once validated, a plenary debate must be held within 24 hours. The Left group, with 46 MEPs, says its motion is "well under way" and criticises von der Leyen for "sacrificing workers and destroying the Green Deal." However, it will not seek support from the far-right. Von der Leyen began her second term as Commission President in July 2024. *—ANI*

5 killed as flood rescue boat capsizes in Pak

LAHORE, 7 SEPT

Five people, including a woman and four children, died when a rescue boat carrying 30 flood victims capsized in Jalalpur Pirwala, Multan district, Punjab, on Saturday. The boat overturned due to strong currents, and the victims were without life jackets. Authorities rescued the remaining passengers. Punjab's PDMA chief, Irfan Ali Kathia, said over 25,000 boat rescues have been carried out since 23 August, with this being the first fatal incident. An inquiry is underway. Floods across Pakistan have claimed 907 lives since late June. Punjab alone has seen 223 deaths and 4.1 million affected. Meanwhile, India has alerted Pakistan of high flood levels in the Sutlej River, potentially worsening the situation downstream. *—PTI*

S Korea, US reach deal on release of Hyundai workers

SEOUL, 7 SEPT

South Korea says it has reached a deal with the US on the release of South Korean workers detained at a Hyundai plant in Georgia. Presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik announced Sunday that South Korea and the US finalised negotiations on the workers' release and that some unspecified administrative steps are left to be taken. He said South Korea plans to send a charter plane to bring the workers back home. South Korea's Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Saturday that more than 300 South Koreans were among the 475 people detained. —PTI

Pakistani singer stable after bear attack

LAHORE, 7 SEPT

Pakistani singer Quratulain Balouch is in stable condition after being attacked by a brown bear in Skardu, Baltistan, on 4 September. Balouch, 37, was in the region participating in flood relief efforts with Comprehensive Disaster Response Services (CDRS) when the bear entered her tent at night. The CDRS team managed to scare it away, and she was rushed to a nearby hospital. Her team confirmed she sustained no fractures and is recovering from her wounds. All public engagements, including a 19 September show, have been postponed. In a statement, her team thanked fans for their prayers and requested privacy during her recovery. Balouch is known for songs like 'Thagyan' and 'Jogan Jogan'. *—PTI*

IN A 1ST, RUSSIA HITS UKRAINIAN GOVT BUILDING

Russia carries out biggest attack of 800 drones

KYIV, 7 SEPT

- More attacks were reported across Ukraine overnight. President Zelenskyy's home city, Kryvyy Rih, was hit with ballistic and cruise missiles as well as drones.

Russia launched its largest drone and missile attack on Ukraine since the war began, hitting Kyiv's Cabinet of Ministers building for the first time. A plume of smoke rose from the government building's roof after the strike, though Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko suggested the fire may have been caused by a drone intercepted nearby.

"In Pechersk district, a fire broke out in a government building as a result of a UAV possibly being shot down," Klitschko wrote on Telegram.

The attack involved 805 drones and decoys, alongside 13 missiles. Ukraine's Air Force shot down 747 drones and four missiles, but debris struck nine missile sites and 56 drone targets across 37 locations. Two people were killed, including a one-year-old child, and 15 others injured. Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko confirmed the government building's roof and upper floors were damaged.

More attacks were reported across Ukraine overnight. President Zelenskyy's home city, Kryvyy Rih, was hit with ballistic and cruise missiles as well as drones. Local administration head Oleksandr Vilkul described it as a "hard night," with damage to transport infrastructure, businesses, an industrial facility, an educational establishment, and several residential blocks. Three people were injured.

In Nikopol, near Kryvyy Rih, one civilian was killed and another injured. In Kremenchuk, a bridge over the Dnieper River and an administrative building were targeted, with no casualties reported. The southern port city of Odesa also suffered a drone attack that damaged civilian infrastructure and residential buildings.

This attack comes amid waning hopes for peace talks, with Ukraine's allies pledging troop deployments as reassurance forces. President Zelenskyy has expressed willingness to meet Vladimir Putin to negotiate peace, urging stronger sanctions against Russia to end the conflict. *—PTI*

A plume of smoke rises from the government building's roof after the strike, though Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko suggests the fire may be caused by a drone intercepted nearby **PHOTO: PTI**

Japan PM quit to avoid party split amid growing rift

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba leaves a news conference in Tokyo, Japan, on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

TOKYO, 7 SEPT

Facing mounting pressure and internal rebellion, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba announced his resignation on Sunday — a day before his party was to decide on an early leadership election, which could have effectively served as a no-confidence vote.

Ishiba said he made the "painful decision to resign" to avoid deepening divisions within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). He confirmed that he would initiate a formal leadership vote to choose his successor in October and would remain as prime minister until the transition is complete.

Despite calls to stay, Ishiba ruled out running again,

expressing regret over leaving key policies unfinished — including salary hikes, agricultural reform, and bolstering national security.

The decision follows the LDP's devastating loss in July's upper house election, where it failed to secure a majority in the 248-seat chamber. The setback came after the party also lost its majority in the more powerful lower house just weeks after Ishiba took office last October.

While some LDP insiders argue the losses were tied to scandals under previous leadership, pressure on Ishiba grew, particularly from party heavyweight Taro Aso and members of his own cabinet.

Former Health Minister Norihisa Tamura said the party needed closure before Monday's vote to restore focus on economic measures and cross-party cooperation.

Possible successors include Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, ultra-conservative Sanae Takaichi, and moderate Yoshimasa Hayashi. With the LDP lacking a majority in both houses, the next leader will likely need opposition support to govern effectively. *—PTI*

Russia's cancer vaccine ready for use

MOSCOW, 7 SEPT

Russia has developed a vaccine for colorectal cancer that has completed preclinical trials, demonstrating high efficacy and safety, according to Veronika Skvortsova, head of the Federal Medical and Biological Agency (FMBA). Speaking at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Skvortsova confirmed the vaccine is ready for use and awaiting official approval.

The research spanned several years, with the last three focused on mandatory preclinical studies. Results showed tumour size reductions and slowed progression by 60–80 per cent, depending on the cancer type. Repeated use was also found to be safe. Notably, the vaccine improved survival rates in test models.

The first target application is colorectal cancer, with promising developments also underway for vaccines targeting glioblastoma and specific melanomas, including ocular melanoma. Cancer vaccines work by training the immune system to recognise and attack cancer cells. *—ANI*

Chipocalyse now: Don threatens war on Chicago

WASHINGTON, 6 SEPT

US President Donald Trump sparked outrage on Saturday after posting a parody image referencing the film 'Apocalypse Now', threatening to unleash military and immigration forces on Chicago (in pic). The image, showing helicopters flying over a flaming cityscape, was captioned: "I love the smell of deportations in the morning", a twist on the film's infamous line.

Labelled "Chipocalypse Now", the post also featured Trump in the style of war-hungry Lt Col Kilgore. The post follows Trump's repeated threats to ramp up enforcement in Democrat-led cities, with Chicago now added to a list including Los Angeles, Washington D.C., and possibly Portland, Baltimore, and New Orleans.

On Friday, Trump signed an executive order proposing to rename the Department of Defence as the "Department of War", a move requiring congressional approval. The announcement comes as Trump continues to position himself for a Nobel Peace Prize nomination, despite increasing militarisation.

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker responded sharply, calling Trump a "wannabe dictator" and warning that the President is "threatening to go to war with an American city." He added, "This is not a joke. This is not normal."

City and state leaders have vowed to sue if federal troops are deployed. Trump, meanwhile, claims he has near-limitless power to act. "If I think our country is in danger, and it is, I can do it," he said recently.

Pritzker, a potential 2028 presidential contender, declared: "Illinois won't be intimidated." *—PTI*

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump · 2h
'I love the smell of deportations in the morning...'
Chicago about to find out why it's called the Department of WAR
ChipocalypseNow

Labelled 'Chipocalypse Now', the post also featured Trump in the style of war-hungry Lt Col Kilgore **PHOTO: X/@REALDONALDTRUMP**

Trump confirms top picks to replace Fed Chair Powell

US President Donald Trump has confirmed Kevin Hassett, Kevin Warsh, and Christopher Waller as his top picks to replace Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell when his term ends in May 2026. Trump has criticised Powell for not cutting interest rates and is also attempting to remove Fed board member Lisa Cook.

Trump plans S Korea Visit, possible Xi meeting in Oct

Trump is preparing to visit South Korea in late October for the APEC Summit in Gyeongju, with talks underway for a potential meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, CNN reported. Though no firm plans exist, the trip may also include discussions on trade, defence, and nuclear cooperation.

The protest at Parliament Square, organised by Defend Our Juries, drew hundreds carrying placards such as "I oppose genocide'. **PHOTO: X**

890 arrested in UK for Palestine Action rally

LONDON, 7 SEPT

Over 890 people were arrested during a protest in London on Saturday against the UK government's recent proscription of Palestine Action as a terrorist group. The Metropolitan Police condemned the "intolerable" abuse suffered by officers, who were punched, kicked, spat on, and had objects thrown at them.

The protest at Parliament Square, organised by Defend Our Juries, drew hundreds carrying placards such as "I oppose genocide, I support Palestine Action", amid ongoing tensions over the Israel-Hamas conflict.

While most arrests were for supporting a proscribed organisation, more than 25 people were detained for assaults on officers and other public order offences. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Claire Smart said the violence diverted significant police resources from local communities.

More than 2,500 officers were deployed across London, where other demonstrations, including a Palestine Coalition march of 20,000, remained largely peaceful.

The Met Police said there was a "coordinated effort" during the Defend Our Juries protest to obstruct officers, escalating into violence. They warned that attacks on police "will not be tolerated."

Palestine Action was banned in July by former Home Secretary Yvette Cooper under the UK's Terrorism Act, making support for the group a criminal offence. *—PTI*

Microsoft services crippled after Red Sea cable cut

DUBAI, 7 SEPT

Microsoft has confirmed that its services in West Asia are experiencing increased latency due to undersea fibre-optic cable cuts in the Red Sea, disrupting internet speeds across the region, including the United Arab Emirates.

UAE users on state-owned networks Du and Etisalat reported slower connections on Sunday. However, the government has not officially acknowledged the disruption. Microsoft noted that internet traffic outside West Asia remains unaffected but did not elaborate on the scale of the issue.

The cable cuts come amid heightened tensions in the Red Sea, where Yemen's Houthi rebels have waged a campaign against Israel in response to the ongoing war in Gaza. Though the Houthis have denied previous attacks on undersea infrastructure, their al-Masirah news channel acknowledged the recent disruptions.

In early 2024, Yemen's exiled government accused the Houthis of planning attacks on subsea cables. Several were damaged, though no party claimed responsibility at the time.

Since November 2023, the Iranian-backed Houthis have targeted over 100 ships with drones and missiles, sinking four and killing at least eight sailors.

The attacks paused briefly during a ceasefire but resumed despite US-led airstrikes. *—PTI*

'GOD'S INFLUENCER'

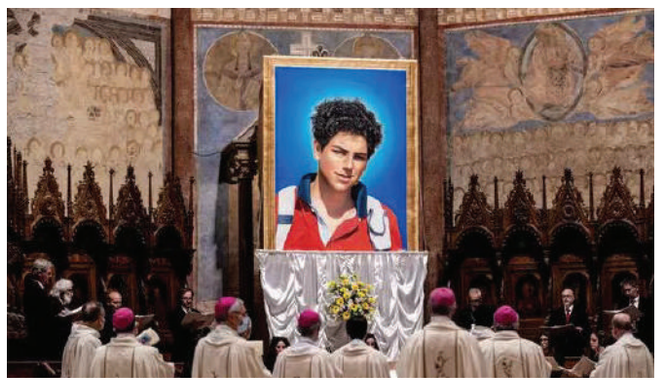
Teen computer whiz is 1st millennial saint

VATICAN CITY, 7 SEPT

Pope Leo XIV declared 15-year-old Carlo Acutis the Catholic Church's first millennial saint Sunday during an open-air Mass at St Peter's Square, witnessed by around 80,000 people. Acutis, a computer whiz who died in 2006 from leukemia, was honoured as a relatable role model who used technology to spread the faith, earning the nickname "God's influencer."

The canonisation ceremony, the first of Leo's pontificate, also saw the sainthood of Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young Italian known for his devotion to the poor.

Born in 1991 in London and raised in Milan, Acutis had a passion for computer science and created a multilingual website documenting Eucharistic miracles recognised by the Church. He was known for his deep religious devotion, spending hours daily in prayer and limiting video game time to just one hour a week.



Born in 1991 in London, Carlo Acutis had created a multilingual website documenting Eucharistic miracles recognised by the Church **PHOTO: X**

Pope Leo praised both saints for turning ordinary lives into "masterpieces" dedicated to God, urging young people not to waste their lives but to follow God's plan. Since Acutis' death, millions of young Catholics have visited his tomb in Assisi, where his body remains remarkably well preserved.

His canonisation reflects the Vatican's effort to engage younger generations, offering a modern saint who embraces technology while living traditional Catholic values. Acutis' story resonates as a model for navigating faith in the digital age. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Food Min to launch new chemical testing lab

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi will inaugurate a new chemical laboratory at the National Test House in Ghaziabad on 10 September, as the country seeks to strengthen quality testing capabilities across various industries. The state-of-the-art facility will test packaged drinking water, natural mineral water, food packaging materials, and construction materials, including cement and metals, according to an official statement. The laboratory has received accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories under ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standards and holds approvals from the Bureau of Indian Standards, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, and under the Fertilizer Control Order of 1985. *—PTI*

BPCL gets nod for Rs 1L cr refinery project in Andhra

HYDERABAD, 7 SEPT

The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has received permission from a committee of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change to develop terms of reference (ToR) for a proposed 9 million metric tons per annum Greenfield Refinery and Petrochemical Complex in Andhra Pradesh. The project, estimated to cost Rs 1.03 lakh crore, is expected to take 42 months to complete, generating 3,400 jobs during the construction phase and 3,750 during operations. Located at Chevuru Village, Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore District, the project will require 2,109.62 hectares of land, with 703.34 hectares designated for a greenbelt. Notably, "No forest land will be acquired" for this development, confirmed the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC). *—PTI*

India's coal imports drop amid weak demand

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

India's coal imports fell by 16.4per cent to 21.08M tonnes (MT) in July from 25.23 MT a year earlier, due to weak monsoon demand and high stock levels. Imports for April–July also declined to 97.49 MT from 100.48 MT in the same period last year, according to mjunction services, a B2B platform owned by Tata Steel and SAIL. "There was a decline in volumes due to sluggish demand during the monsoon and high stock in the system. We expect demand to rise before the festive season at the end of September," said mjunction MD Vinaya Varma. Non-coking coal imports fell to 11.54 MT, while coking coal rose to 5.85 MT. The government has pledged to ensure supply and cut import dependence. *—PTI*

GST 2.0: Hyundai, Tata announce price cuts

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

Hyundai Motor India has announced a price reduction across its entire model range, with decreases of up to Rs 2.4 lakh, effective from 22 September. The range of cuts varies from Rs 60,640 on the Verna to Rs 2.4 lakh on the premium SUV Tucson. Managing Director Unsoo Kim stated, "This reform is not only a boost to the automotive industry but also a strong step towards empowering millions of customers by making personal mobility more affordable and accessible." In a separate announcement, Tata Motors confirmed it will fully pass on the GST reduction benefits to its entire commercial vehicle range, also effective from 22 September, 2025, with price reductions ranging from Rs 30,000 to Rs 4.65 lakh. *—PTI*

Modi's nudge to FM sparked biggest GST reforms in 8 yrs

Discussion with PM led her to begin work on reviewing GST

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

'Ek baar aap GST dekh lo!' - Prime Minister Narendra Modi's gentle nudge to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in December last year sparked the beginning of a mammoth exercise to overhaul the tangled goods and services tax regime.

And the final outcome is a significantly simplified system with lower tax rates and easier compliance for businesses.

Sitharaman, who, along with her team, began work to identify anomalies in the present four-tier structure and compliance issues faced by businesses, was once again reminded by the Prime Minister when she was preparing the Budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year. 'Aap GST ke upar kar rahi ho na kaam?' Modi had inquired.

Her discussion with the Prime Minister led Sitharaman to begin work on reviewing everything in GST - not just rates and tax slabs but how to make the regime more friendly for businesses, particularly small and medium businesses.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman *PHOTO: PTI*

- What came handy was the work of a group of ministers on different GST issues during the last one and half years.

In an interview with PTI, Sitharaman recalled the parallel works that happened - from overhauling the indirect tax regime to ensuring the back-end software is ready to implement the massive change in the offing.

"Even before the last GST council meeting, which happened in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan (in December 2024), the Prime Minister had called me and said, 'ek baar aap GST dekh lo. Business ke liye subvidhajanak banao and rates par itne sare confusion kyun hai' (please look at the GST regime once. Why is there so much confusion on rates? Make it easier for businesses)," he said.

What came handy was the work of a group of ministers on different GST issues during the last one and half years.

Classification issues - such as different tax rates on salted and caramel popcorn and cream buns being taxed at higher rates while buns and cream separately attracting much lower taxes - and the rates were reviewed. *—PTI*

Swiggy has hiked its platform fee to Rs 15, inclusive of GST, whie Zomato has raised its platform fee to Rs 12.50 excluding GST *PHOTO: ANI*

GST 2.0 might make food delivery costlier

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

The hike in platform fees by Zomato, Swiggy and magicpin ahead of the festive season is set to make ordering food costlier for millions of users across the country, which is likely to rise further due to the 18 per cent GST levy on delivery charges from 22 September.

Swiggy has hiked its platform fee to Rs 15, inclusive of GST, in select markets. Rival Zomato has raised its platform fee to Rs 12.50 (excluding GST), whereas the third-largest food delivery player, magicpin, has also revised its platform fee to Rs 10 per order, in line with broader industry trends, making it expensive for food delivery consumers.

Estimates suggest that the additional burden on account of 18 per cent GST to be levied on delivery charges from 22 September is expected to add roughly Rs 2 per order for Zomato users and Rs 2.6 for Swiggy customers.

A magicpin spokesperson told PTI that it has already been paying 18 per cent GST on its food-delivery costs.

"Recent GST changes do not impact our cost structure. Thus, for consumers, there would be no impact of the GST increase. Our platform fees will remain at Rs 10 per order, which is also the lowest among major food delivery companies," the spokesperson added.

Platform fees have emerged as an additional source of revenue for food delivery players in the recent past. *—PTI*

Two-wheeler sales to grow by 5-6%, says Crisil

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

Two-wheeler sales volume is expected to grow by 5-6 per cent in the current fiscal year, due to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council's decision to rationalise tax rates, Crisil Ratings said in a report. The rating firm said that the move is expected to provide a much-needed stimulus to the domestic automobile industry, particularly two-wheelers and passenger vehicles (PVs), which together account for nearly 90 per cent of the market's volume. *—ANI*

Foreign investors withdraw ₹12.2K cr in first week of Sept

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

Foreign investors pulled out Rs 12,257 crore (USD 1.4 billion) from Indian equities in the first week of September, weighed down by a stronger dollar, US tariff concerns, and persistent geopolitical tensions.

This came following a net outflow of Rs 34,990 crore in August and Rs 17,700 crore in July. With this, the total outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in equities reached Rs 1.43 lakh crore so far in 2025, data with the depositories showed.

In the coming week, FPI flows are expected to be driven by US Fed commentary, US labour market data, RBI rate cut expectations and its stance on rupee stability, Vaqarjaved Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst, Angel One, said.

Market experts believe that a combination of global and domestic factors triggered the latest withdrawals. Khan said US tariff tensions, a weak rupee and global risk-off sentiment led to selloff cushioned by rationalisation of GST rates by government & healthy first quarter GDP data.

On the other hand, FPIs invested Rs 1,978 crore in the debt general limit and withdrew Rs 993 crore in the debt voluntary retention route during the period under review. *—PTI*

The total outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in equities reached Rs 1.43 lakh crore so far in 2025 *PHOTO: FREEPIK*

7 OF TOP FIRMS' MCAP JUMPS RS 1L CR

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms jumped Rs 1,06,250.95 crore last week, with Bajaj Finance and Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainers, in line with an optimistic trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 901.11 points, or 1.12 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 314.15 points, or 1.28 per cent. From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance and LIC were the winners, while TCS, Infosys and Hindustan Unilever face erosion from their market valuation last week. The valuation of Bajaj Finance surged Rs 37,960.96 crore to Rs 5,83,451.27 crore. Reliance Industries added Rs 23,343.51 crore to Rs 18,59,767.71 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of HDFC Bank jumped Rs 17,580.42 crore to Rs 14,78,444.32 crore. *—PTI*

Global trends, FII activity, inflation to drive markets

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

Indian stock markets are expected to track global trends, foreign investor activity, and upcoming inflation data this week, analysts say. Markets ended last week on a strong note, with the BSE rising 901 points and the Nifty gaining 314 points, supported by strong domestic macroeconomic data and policy reforms.

"This week will be data-heavy both domestically and internationally. August inflation data (12 September) will be closely watched. Key US releases including consumer inflation, jobless claims, and sentiment will influence Fed policy expectations. Updates on India-US trade deal could further boost sentiment," said Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Investors may focus on consumption-driven and capital expenditure-linked sectors, though caution is advised amid evolving Fed guidance and international trade developments, noted Pravesh Gour, Swastika Investmart Ltd. *—PTI*

PhysicsWallah to raise Rs 3,820 crore via IPO

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

Edtech unicorn PhysicsWallah has filed updated draft papers with markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 3,820 crore through an initial public offering (IPO) for expansion and growth initiatives.

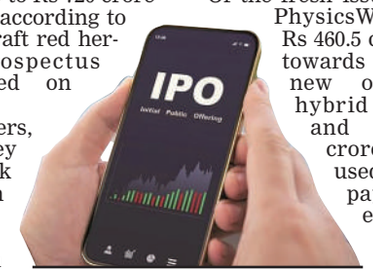
The proposed IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 3,100 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of shares aggregating up to Rs 720 crore by promoters, according to the updated draft red herring prospectus (UDRHP) filed on Saturday.

Both promoters, Alakh Pandey and Prateek Boob, will each offload shares worth Rs 360 crore through the OFS. At present, both hold 40.35 per cent stake each.

The firm filed draft papers in March with Sebi for an IPO through a confidential pre-filing route and received the market regulator's approval in July.

The company opted for the confidential pre-filing route, which allowed it to withhold public disclosure of IPO details until later stages.

Of the fresh issue proceeds, PhysicsWallah said Rs 460.5 crore will go towards fit-outs of new offline and hybrid centres, and Rs 548.3 crore will be used for lease payments of existing centres. *—PTI*



India may become LinkedIn's largest market: Nation head

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

LinkedIn's India Country Manager, Kumaresh Pattabiraman, has stated that India is on track to become the professional networking platform's largest market within the next 2-3 years, thanks to its rapidly growing user base of over 160 million. "By solving for India, we also solve for our 1.2 billion members globally," Pattabiraman remarked, highlighting India's "digital-first" workforce and its eagerness for upskilling.

The platform has experienced a membership surge of over 50 per cent in the past two years and has more than doubled its revenue since 2020. Notably, India has seen a 60 per cent increase in immersive video uploads, the highest globally.

Pattabiraman is focused on leveraging India's unique attributes, such as its young, AI-savvy workforce and vibrant small and medium-sized business ecosystem. LinkedIn is also innovating its job search experience through AI, enabling job seekers to use their own terms. He affirmed LinkedIn's commitment to investing in R&D and expanding opportunities in tier two and tier three cities across India. *—PTI*

India's forex reserves rise by $3.5B

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

India's foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 3.5 billion in the week that ended August 29 to USD 694.230 billion, driven largely by a rise in foreign currency assets and gold, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its latest 'Weekly Statistical Supplement'.

The country's forex kitty is hovering close to its all-time high of USD 704.89 billion touched in September 2024.

For the reported week, India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of foreign exchange reserves, stood at USD 583.937 billion, a rise of USD 1.7 billion.

The RBI data showed that the gold reserves currently amount to USD 86.769 billion, witnessing a rise of USD 1.8 billion.

After the latest monetary policy review meeting, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the foreign exchange kitty was sufficient to meet 11 months of the country's imports.

In 2023, India added around USD 58 billion to its foreign exchange reserves, contrasting with a cumulative decline of USD 71 billion in 2022.

In 2024, the reserves rose by a little over USD 20 billion. So far in 2025, the forex kitty has cumulatively increased by about USD 53 billion, according to data.

Foreign exchange reserves, or FX reserves, are assets held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority, primarily in reserve currencies such as the US Dollar, with smaller portions in the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling. *—ANI*

OYO's parent firm changes entity name to Prism

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

IPO-bound OYO's parent entity, Oravel Stays, will now be called Prism to serve as the umbrella entity for all its businesses and bring together various brands of the global travel tech platform.

In a letter to shareholders sent by OYO, accessed by PTI, Chairman of the Board and founder Ritesh Agarwal mentioned that Oravel Stays will launch Prism Life, in short Prism, as its new corporate identity.

"Prism will serve as the umbrella for all our diverse businesses, helping us work more efficiently and clearly communicate who we are. It will tie together our different brands without losing what makes each one unique," Agarwal said in the letter.

The new corporate name Prism was chosen following a global public naming competition that attracted more than 6,000 submissions.

Founded in 2012 by Agarwal, OYO serves more than 100 million customers across over 35 countries. *—PTI*

FROM 28% TO 18%

Health experts alarmed by GST cut on beedis

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

Health experts have raised serious concerns over the government's decision to reduce the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on beedis from 28 per cent to 18 per cent, while other tobacco products remain in the highest 40 per cent slab.

They warned that cheaper beedis could increase their use, particularly among poor and vulnerable communities, worsening India's tobacco-related health burden.

Beedis, the most commonly smoked tobacco product in India, are used by over 70 million adults, according to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) India 2016-17.

Warning of public health risks, renowned oncologist and recipient of the Judy Wilenfield Award for Global Tobacco Control by WHO Partners, Dr Vishal Rao, said, "Beedis, widely consumed by vulnerable populations, are very harmful. This tax disparity risks making beedis more affordable, potentially increasing their use, leading to cancers and other diseases."

Emphasising the broader policy risks, Dr Rao said this rate reduction would "subsidise death" for the poor as they are the most vulnerable.

Highlighting the dangers of beedis, public health expert and Head of the Department of Rheumatology at AIIMS, Delhi, Dr Uma Kumar said evidence clearly shows that higher taxation helps prevent tobacco use by reducing its affordability.

Taxation is a proven tool for tobacco control, according to the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, to which India is an early signatory.

Global studies show that a 10 per cent price increase can reduce tobacco consumption by 4-8 per cent in low and middle-income countries, particularly among the youth and lower-income groups sensitive to price changes. *—PTI*

Beedis, the most commonly smoked tobacco product in India, are used by over 70 million adults *PHOTO: ANI*

GST cut to boost pvt funding in biogas sector

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

The reduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on biogas plants and devices will boost private investment in the sector, the Indian Biogas Association (IBA) said on Sunday. GST on biogas plants and devices has been cut to 5 per cent from 12 per cent.

Biogas plants and devices should become cheaper and more accessible and more financially attractive for investment, said the IBA in a statement. A reduction of 7 per cent in the applicable GST rate for CBG (compressed biogas) sector is expected to significantly improve project viability, and the direct impact would translate into 4-5 per cent increase in new investments in the industry over the short to medium term. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

England records its 5th-highest ODI score

SOUTHAMPTON, 7 SEPT

England smashed its fifth-highest team score in an ODI during the third match against South Africa in Southampton on Sunday. Powered by hundreds from Joe Root and Jacob Bethell, England posted 414 for five after being inserted by the Proteas. The English charge was also boosted by quick-fire fifties from Jamie Smith and Jos Buttler. This is England's highest ODI score against South Africa, bettering the 399/9 it scored against the Proteas back in 2016. England holds the record for the top-three highest scores in ODIs, dating across seven years since 2016.—*PTI*

Pak to host first T20 tri-series with AFG and Sri Lanka

ISLAMABAD, 7 SEPT

Pakistan will host its first-ever T20 tri-series in November with Afghanistan and Sri Lanka participating in the 13-day event. Afghanistan will be playing T20s in Pakistan for the first time. It has played five ODIs in Pakistan, including a game against Australia during the Champions Trophy in February. The tri-series will begin on Nov. This will be Afghanistan's first-ever T20 in Pakistan, having earlier played five ODIs in the country, the last of which was against Australia during the ICC Champions Trophy in February. Schedule: 17 Nov.Pakistan vs Afghanistan at Rawalpindi 18 Nov. Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan at Rawalpindi 22 Nov. Pakistan vs Sri Lanka at LahoreN 23 Nov. Pakistan vs Afghanistan at Lahore 25 Nov. Sri Lanka v Afghanistan at Lahore 27Nov. Pakistan vs Sri Lanka at Lahore 29 Nov. Final at Lahore.—*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Lovlina rues first-round exit at World Boxing

LIVERPOOL, 7 SEPT

Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain expressed frustration over inadequate training opportunities after crashing out in the first round of the World Boxing Championships, saying that she doesn't always get the training she "truly needs". Returning to international competition after more than a year, the Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist looked out of rhythm in a 0-5 loss to Turkey's Busra Isildar in the 75kg round of 16 bout on Saturday. "After 1 year away, I stepped into my first international competition. I lost in my very first fight... it hurts. I'm sorry, I couldn't do it this time.—*PTI*

10-man India lose 1-2 to Qatar in AFC U23 AC Qualifiers

DOHA, 7 SEPT

India went down 1-2 to hosts Qatar after being reduced to 10 men in their second Group H clash of the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers here. Al Hashmi Mohialdin (18') had put Qatar in the lead early on, before Muhammed Suhail (52') equalised. However, a Jassem Al Sharshani (67') penalty ensured the three points for Qatar on Saturday. Buoyed by their 2-0 victory against Bahrain in the last match, India made a quick start to the game, Suhail getting an early chance, where he shot just inches over the crossbar from outside the box in the second minute. The hosts slowly gained control of the game and took the lead in the 18th minute.—*PTI*

World C'ships: India wins 1st gold at men's compound archery

India finish on the podium for the first time in the World Championships in eight years *PHOTO: PTI*

GWANGJU, 7 SEPT

India scaled a historic first in the men's compound archery team event here on Sunday, winning the gold to make up for the disappointment of the women's team that failed to finish on the podium for the first time in the World Championships in eight years.

India's top qualifier Rishabh Yadav also returned with a double, bagging silver in the mixed team event with veteran Jyothi Surekha Vennam, while there was disappointment on the women's front as the team bowed out in the pre-quarterfinals to end a consistent medal run since 2017.

Seeded second on the back of Yadav's eighth-place finish in the individual qualifiers, the Indian men's trio of Yadav, Aman Saini, and Prathamesh Fuge fought back from behind to stun France 235-233 in a gripping final. France fielded Nicolas Girard, Jean Philippe Boulch, and Francois Dubois, but the Indian unit showed remarkable composure under pressure, as has been the trend since Saturday.

Much of the credit should go to Fuge, India's lowest-ranked qualifier at 19th, who redeemed himself after starting with two 9s in the first end. The 22-year-old then unleashed six perfect 10s in a row, including a decisive final arrow that sealed India's landmark gold medal.

"It's not just Fuge, each member of the trio showed character and complemented each other without succumbing to pressure," India's chief compound coach Jiwanjot Singh Teja told PTI. India trailed 57-59 after the opening end, but stormed back with six 10s in the second end to level the match at 117-all. Both sides shot 59 each in the third, keeping scores tied at 176-176.

In the end, the French faltered under pressure, while India remained flawless, with Fuge's last arrow yet another 10, clinching the historic gold. Coach Teja revealed that the turning point came in the round of 16 against Australia, their opening clash, as they got a bye in the first round. India were trailing in the first three ends but turned it around with a flawless fourth end before winning the shoot-off. —*PTI*

Aryna Sabalenka wins US Open 2025 twice in a row

Though Anisimova fell short, she was lauded for her comeback

NEW YORK, 7 SEPT

Aryna Sabalenka was two points away from what eventually would be a second consecutive U.S. Open title when she had what should have been a routine, easy, even overhead smash. Instead, while backpedaling, she dumped the ball into the net, giving her opponent, Amanda Anisimova, a break chance.

After that excruciating miss Saturday, Sabalenka dropped her racket on the blue court and smiled ruefully. She began to feel the sort of emotions that got the better of her during losses in the finals at the Australian Open in January and the French Open in June bubble up. She tried to compose herself.

"I just let the doubt get into my head," Sabalenka explained. "But then I turned around and I took a deep breath in, and I was like, OK. It happens. It's in the past. Let's focus on the next one."

So everything was fine from there? Well, no. "She broke me," Sabalenka said with a loud laugh. "I was like, 'OK. ... Reset." It took another 15 minutes to complete the job, but the No. 1-seeded Sabalenka did reset, unlike at those earlier title matches in 2025, and was able to kneel on Arthur Ashe Stadium's court while covering her face with her hands after beating Anisimova 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Aryna Sabalenka reacts to Donald Trump watching the men's US Open final

Asked if she had any opinions about his decision to skip the women's final in favour of the men's, a confused look shot across her face as she seemed to question the relevance of this question.

Replying in Russian, she admitted: "It just seems to me that he is the president, he probably has his own schedule, and still, probably, Alcaraz and Sinner after such incredible two finals that they played in Paris and London, it will be a really spectacular match, and I don't think it is some kind of disrespect for women's tennis.

Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos with the 2025 U.S. Open men's doubles title *PHOTO: X/@USOPEN*

Granollers and Zeballos cap dream year with men's doubles title

Marcel Granollers lunged to his right and smacked Neal Skupski's serve into an open corner of the court to break serve, sending Carlos Alcaraz leaping into the air in celebration. Just minutes earlier,

Granollers and Zeballos won their second Grand Slam title of the season Saturday, edging Joe Salisbury and Skupski 3-6, 7-6 (4), 7-5. "Tennis sometimes is crazy," Granollers said at their press conference, "because we were talking now coming to here that how close you are to losing the match, and then in 20 minutes you win the trophy."

Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, holds up the championship trophy after defeating Amanda Anisimova *PHOTO: X/@USOPEN*

DULEEP TROPHY

Central Zone in final despite Jaiswal's 50 for West Zone

BENGALURU, 7 SEPT

Yashasvi Jaiswal's sparkling fifty remained a mere personal landmark as Central Zone advanced to the Duleep Trophy final by virtue of their first innings lead in the drawn match against West Zone here on Sunday. Central Zone will now face South Zone in the final, which is scheduled for 11 September.

Jaiswal (64) peppered the boundary lines often in his 70-ball innings that helped West reach 216 for eight in their second innings, but the 162-run innings lead that they conceded earlier sealed their fate.

Central, overnight 556 for eight, were bowled out for 600, but not before Saransh Jain (63 not out) compiled a well-deserved fifty. West skipper Shadul Thakur (6) was dismissed at the stroke of tea, with Tanush Kotian (40) batting at the other end, and both teams agreed to shake hands at that point, signalling a draw. While not seeing his side in the title clash might come as a disappointment for Jaiswal, he would be happy to spend some good time in the middle for the first time after the Test series against England. He was his usual aggressive self while making a fifty at a strike-rate of

92, but eventually the aggression proved his undoing as a rather ugly swipe off left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey (3/96) ended his stay.

South Zone advance to Duleep Trophy final

N Jagadeesan struck an unbeaten 52 to extend South Zone's dominance as they advanced to the final of the Duleep Trophy after taking a 175-run first-innings lead against North Zone here on Sunday. South Zone will take on Central Zone in the summit clash of the tournament here from 11 September. South Zone reached 95 for one when the game was called off with Jagadeesan, who had struck a brilliant 197 in the first innings, reaching 52 not out off 69 balls with six fours to carry on with his red-hot form. —*PTI*

FIDE GRAND SWISS 2025

Chess: Divya Deshmukh claims her first win

NEW DELHI, 7 SEPT

India's Divya Deshmukh beat Egyptian GM Bassem Amin in the fourth round to claim her first win in the open category of the FIDE Grand Swiss 2025.

Wielding the black pieces, Divya, who recently claimed the FIDE World Cup title, outplayed her opponent in a Sicilian game.

The 19-year-old cashed in on a slew of errors in the middle game from her higher-rated opponent to enter the end-game in a winning position.

A brilliant rook sacrifice (33. Rxg4) firmly tilted the game in Divya's favor as she soon bagged a massive win.

Divya had entered the open section of the tournament after having already secured a spot at the Candidates through her World Cup win.

The Indian GM started with a defeat to compatriot Abhimanyu Puranik, before claiming draws in the second and third rounds. —*PTI*

Cristiano Ronaldo scores a stunning goal

MANCHESTER, 7 SEPT

Cristiano Ronaldo's quest to play in a record sixth World Cup began spectacularly with two goals as Portugal made a winning start to its qualifying campaign by routing Armenia 5-0.

Ronaldo's goals extended his record as the highest scorer in men's international football to 140 and underlined his enduring motivation to keep setting benchmarks before his storied career comes to an end.

The 40-year-old soccer great has recently signed a new contract with Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr and led Portugal to victory at the UEFA Nations League last summer. —*PTI*

India beat Korea to clinch 4th title, book WC berth

RAJGIR, 7 SEPT

India defeated South Korea 4-1 in the summit clash of the Asia Cup 2025 at Rajgir Hockey Stadium, Bihar.

It is the fourth title for India, and with it, they also booked a World Cup spot for themselves. Dilpreet Singh scored twice while Sukhjeet Singh and Amit Rohidas scored a goal each for the hosts. South Korea pulled one back in the fourth quarter, but it was too late for the defending champions.

India defeated South Korea 4-1 in the summit clash of the Asia Cup 2025 at Rajgir *PHOTO: PTI*

South Korea got a penalty corner, and it was a powerful drag flick that followed. Amit Rohidas put his body in line and took the blow that hit him over his knee, somewhere around the thigh region. India managed to thwart the danger. Around two and a half minutes left on the clock.

Malaysia beats China to win bronze

Malaysia edged out China 4-1 to claim bronze, while Japan triumphed over Bangladesh 5-1 to finish fifth, before host India takes on the defending champion Korea in the grand finale of the Asia Cup 2025 at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium on Sunday.

Following a difficult 7-0 loss to India, China's team was back on the field, eager to prove itself in a high-stakes bronze medal match against Malaysia. Its opponent, also coming off a tough semifinal defeat to Korea, was equally determined to secure a spot on the podium.

The Chinese squad looked understandably fatigued, playing less than 20 hours after its bruising encounter with the host team. Meanwhile, Malaysia, under the guidance of coach Sarjit Kundan, appeared fresh and ready to capitalise on its opponent's exhaustion.

It capitalised on both of its first-quarter penalty corners, with the goals resulting from relentless pressure. After the initial drag-flicks were blocked by the scrambling Bangladeshi defence, the ball fell to Japan's forwards, who pounced on the opportunity to convert the rebounds.

Japan's offensive onslaught continued throughout the match. With at least three dozen entries into the circle, it earned a staggering ten penalty corners and created a flurry of open-play chances. Almost every foray forward was a threat.

Team Korea booked their place in the final with a dramatic 4-3 victory over Malaysia in their last Super 4 match. —*PTI*

ITALIAN GRAND PRIX

Max Verstappen claims dominant victory

MONZA, 7 SEPT

Max Verstappen claimed a dominant victory at the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday ahead of McLaren's title contenders Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri.

It was a first win since May for Verstappen – and only his third of the season and capped a memorable weekend at Monza for Red Bull's four-time world champion, who had posted the fastest lap in Formula 1 history at the track on Saturday to claim pole position.

Max Verstappen *PHOTO: X/@ ITALIANGP*

"That was unbelievable, guys! Well done, everyone," Verstappen said on team radio. "We executed that really well.

What an unbelievable weekend. We can be really proud of that." Norris was second, nearly 20 seconds behind Verstappen, to trim the gap to Piastri in the title race to 31 points.

He had started the day 34 points behind the Australian driver, who was not happy after he was ordered to let his teammate pass towards the end of the race.

The switch came after Norris had a slow pit stop, which appeared to put his title chances further in jeopardy when he came out behind his teammate, but McLaren ordered Piastri to let the British driver pass, which he did despite grumbling about the decision on team radio.

"I felt like I was there for quite a long time," Norris said. "Now and then we make mistakes as a team, and this was one of them." Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton had solid performances at the team's home race. —*PTI*

PSG hit by double injury blow ahead of CL

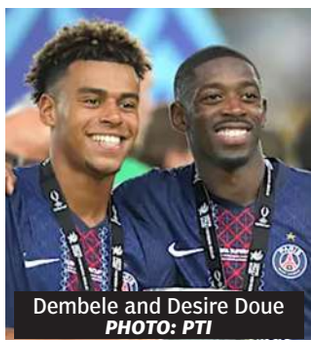
PARIS, 7 SEPT

Paris Saint-Germain has suffered a double injury blow ahead of the Champions League start, with Ousmane Dembele and Desire Doue both ruled out for weeks.

Dembele will be sidelined for up to six weeks with a hamstring injury, PSG said Saturday. Doue will be out for around four weeks with a calf strain, the Champions League winner confirmed.

Dembele limped off the field in France's World Cup qualifying match against Ukraine on Friday, with Doue also injured in the game.

PSG said Dembele had sustained a "serious injury to his right hamstring." Doue strained his right calf.



Dembele and Desire Doue *PHOTO: PTI*

The injuries come less than two weeks before PSG begins the defense of its Champions League title against Atalanta on 17 Sept. The French champion goes to Barcelona, Dembele's former club, two weeks later, on 1 Oct. —*PTI*